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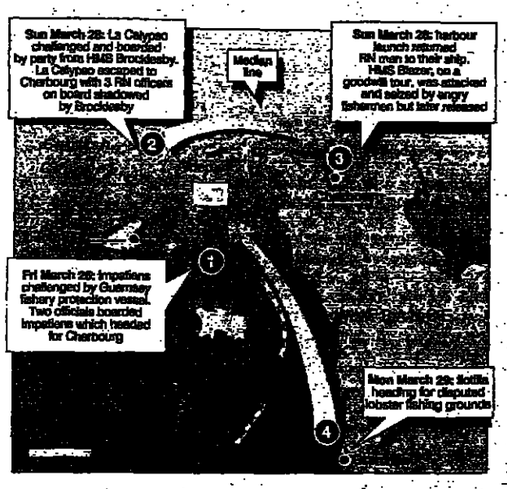
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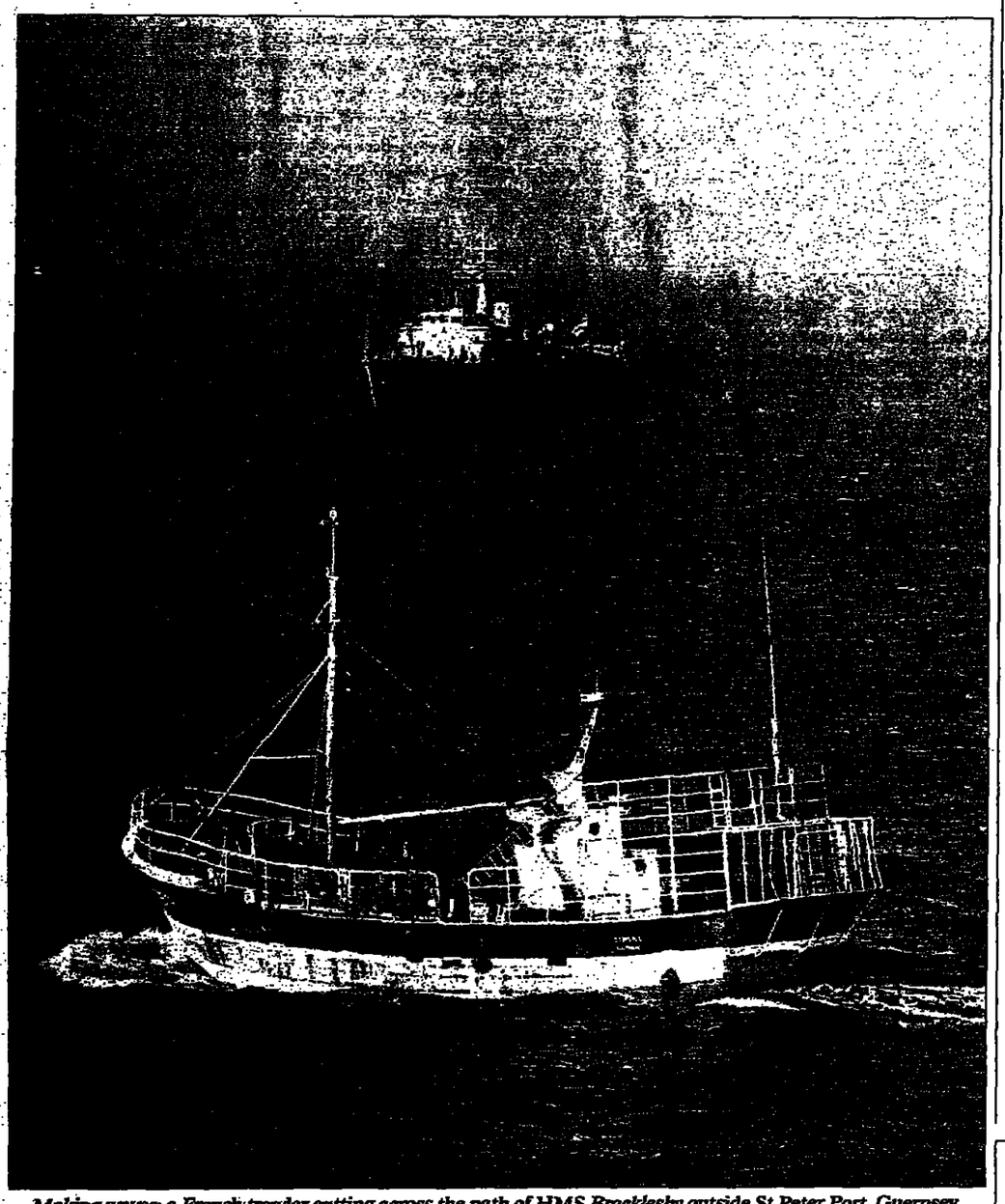
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THE TIMES

No. 64,605 TUESDAY MARCH 30 1993 45p

French flotilla sails to blockade St Peter Port





Making waves: a French trawler cutting across the path of HMS *Brocklesby* outside St Peter Port, Guernsey

BY SHEILA GUNN AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

BRITAIN warned France yesterday that further hostile action by French fishermen against the Royal Navy would not be tolerated.

The French ambassador, Bernard Dorin, was summoned to the Foreign Office to be rebuked by Tristan Garel-Jones, the minister for Europe, for the failure of French forces to control their fishermen.

Tension mounted again yesterday as about 25 French trawlers sailed into St Peter Port in Guernsey in an apparent show of strength. More boats were reported to be on their way. Despite Guernsey police saying there had been no attempt as yet to blockade the port, ferry companies were warned to move their ships out in case the situation escalated. Angry French fishermen resisted police efforts to keep them in their boats as their delegation set off to meet Guernsey fisheries authorities. Police had to clear more than 100 locals from the harbour wall who vented their anger at the French.

Earlier a flotilla of French trawlers was seen heading for the Schole Bank, disputed lobster grounds south of Alderney, in what seemed to be a deliberately provocative move, but were later reported to have dispersed. HMS *Brocklesby*, which clashed with a French trawler on Sunday, was on patrol in the area but made no contact with the French boats.

M. Dorin promised immediate steps by the fisheries ministry to restore order. Representatives of both governments recognised the dangers of the "fish war" escalating. Mr Garel-Jones is understood to have protested that the political vacuum in France until a new government is formed is no excuse for the clashes, in which French fishermen abducted three naval officers off the Channel Islands and boarded the Royal Navy patrol vessel HMS *Blazer* at Cherbourg, burning the white ensign.

After the half-hour meeting, described by the Foreign Office as cordial and frank, M. Dorin said: "As far as what was done to the British ensign is concerned, whatever the circumstances and motives, we condemn such action. The French authorities will do everything necessary to ensure that such incidents are not repeated."

He said that his government condemned the fishermen's behaviour as unacceptable and that it respected the 1992 agreement on fishing rights round the Channel Islands. If differences of interpretation emerged, it was up to fishery officials in both countries to resolve them. "The ministry which has responsibility for fisheries and the merchant navy has immediately taken steps to restore order," M. Dorin said. In Paris, British diplomats protested at the French marine ministry about the clashes.

John Gummer, the agriculture minister, raised the prospect of arming naval boarding parties if the confrontations continued. "If people do not take proper action, we will have to consider whether it will be better if [the boarding parties] are able to protect themselves," he said.

But his more junior fisheries minister, David Curry, said there were no plans to use guns. After a meeting with Archie Hamilton, the armed forces minister, Mr Curry said: "We concluded that as this is an exceptional incident, we are not intending to alter our procedures, which preclude any use of guns. Our protection vessel HMS *Brocklesby* probably could have caught the offending French trawler on Sunday, but the judgment of the captain was that there might have been a collision and loss of life." Mr Curry's advice to the French fishermen was: "Knock it off, because it won't work. We are not going to be intimidated."

A defence ministry official said: "If you go on board with weapons, it can only exacerbate the situation. Does anyone really believe that weapons could be used against French fishermen?" A Royal Navy source said: "This is not a war, it's more like football hooliganism, so the force of the law should be involved, not military action."

David Harris, Conservative MP for St Ives and chairman of the Conservative fisheries committee, demanded tougher action against the French fishermen's "diabolical" behaviour. "The Royal Navy has got to respond with a suitable show of strength to prevent any repetition of the disgraceful incidents by the French," he said. "If necessary they should send a frigate. They just cannot turn a blind eye to it. That is why we have a navy to carry out fishery protection services."

Thirteen minesweepers form the main part of the navy's protection fleet. They are armed with a 40-60mm Bofors gun or a 30mm mark 1 close-range gun. They are allowed to fire warning shots across the bows but if there are serious breaches of fishing regulations, the fishermen are dealt with by the law.

Guernsey anger, page 2
Fishy business, page 16



Balladur named as French leader

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

FRANCE entered a new period of "cohabitation" government last night after President Mitterrand named Edouard Balladur, a senior Gaullist, as prime minister of the new conservative majority but gave a warning that he would not tolerate any retreat from the Maastricht treaty.

"You have expressed a desire for other policies and this will be respected," M Mitterrand said in a television address. M Balladur — who was effectively imposed on the president by Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader — was both the most qualified and most competent candidate, M Mitterrand said.

The president spent most of his brief address marking out the territory which he still considers his own: defence and foreign policy. European unity remained of paramount importance he said, adding: "The Maastricht treaty has been approved and it must be put into effect without any thoughts of retreat.

"The European Monetary System must be preserved. This does not just depend on us but also on the parity of the franc and the German mark. Without a common monetary system, there is no Europe."

M Mitterrand's remarks were the opening round in what is expected to be a two-year struggle between the president and M Chirac. Last week M Chirac said he did not accept the tradition which holds that the president retains power over foreign and defence affairs.

The Gaullists, though committed to a strong franc and European unity, have struck a nationalist stance. M Balladur's choice of ministers, likely to be announced today or tomorrow, will signal whether he is likely to lead his government on a collision course with M Mitterrand.

Bérégovoy goes, page 11
Leading article, page 17

Heseltine tries to reassure coal rebels

BY PHILIP WEBSTER CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine strove last night to contain the Conservative coal rebellion by reassuring MPs that British Coal would do all in its power to seize the "significant new market" available to it. He also announced the government was prepared to set up three new enterprise zones in closure areas.

In an attempt to repair the damage done by the public airing of doubts within the industry about the viability of the reprieve, Mr Heseltine quoted remarks from Neil Clarke, British Coal, chairman, welcoming the fact that all collieries "have an opportunity to compete for a market that was not available at the outset of the review".

Mr Clarke issued the statement after meeting the president of the board of trade at the trade and industry department headquarters. Mr Heseltine is reported to have voiced anger at weekend comments from industry leaders that threatened to undermine his chances of defeating a Tory revolt in last night's vote.

His assurances came after Tory MPs intervened in his Commons speech demanding to know how long the 13 reprieved pits would survive and whether they would do so at the expense of the 19 pits not threatened with closure.

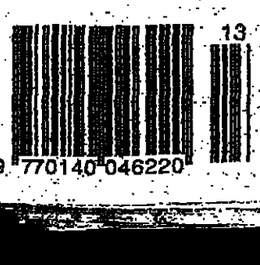
Mr Heseltine reassured them that it was not British Coal's intention that the future of the 12 pits would be secured at the expense of the rest. As the vote approached Tory whips voiced confidence.

Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, said that two diseases affecting miners would be added to those qualifying for disability benefit. The aim is to enable miners to claim up to £200 a week if they suffer chronic bronchitis or emphysema.

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Knife killer chased through streets

BY STEWART TENDLER CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER stewardess with the Queen's Flight and businesswoman was stabbed to death in an apparently motiveless attack on a London street, Scotland Yard said yesterday.

Jean Bradley, 47, an operations manager with a West End relocations firm, was attacked by a man in his 30s armed with an eight-inch knife as she was getting into her BMW car in Acton, west London. The killer was chased for a mile through the streets by a passing motorist but disappeared in a housing estate.

Miss Bradley drove in each day from Crowthorne, Berkshire, parked and caught an underground train to her office. She was murdered last Thursday, and yesterday police appealed for witnesses who heard her screams but who did not realise what was happening.



Jean Bradley: attacked without motive at her car

Last night there was speculation that the murderer could be mentally unstable or on drugs.

The killing took place a few miles from where Penny

Continued on page 2, col 4

Congress closes but chasm still yawns

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

THE emergency Congress of People's Deputies ended yesterday in failure to mend the constitutional and political chasm between President Yeltsin and the Russian parliament. Deputies voted in favour of a referendum, but tabled questions slanted against Mr Yeltsin and his reforms and unlikely to open the way to rapprochement.

The legislature said that a hurdle of 50 per cent of the registered electorate would have to be cleared before the referendum was considered valid, rather than the more realistic 50 per cent of the turnout envisaged by Mr Yeltsin. He wants to limit the referendum to the question of whether he or parliament should have superior power.

Ruslan Khasbulatov, the congress chairman, declared that the four-day session represented a victory for the opposition. He accused the government team of seeking to plunge Russia "back to the worst times of totalitarianism ... and maybe civil war". He added: "Congress has defended the constitution in critical circumstances."

Mr Yeltsin did not attend the sitting, and went to visit the grave of his mother, observing the Orthodox tradition of commemorating the deceased on the ninth day after her death.

Answering accusations that he had been drunk and incoherent during the session, he attributed his unkempt appearance to grief and lack of sleep and said: "These have been difficult days for me. It is difficult for me to bear this loss."

Appetite for strife, page 12

IRA man murdered constable

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE IRA killer Paul Magee will be sentenced today at the Old Bailey for the murder of a special constable in North Yorkshire last year.

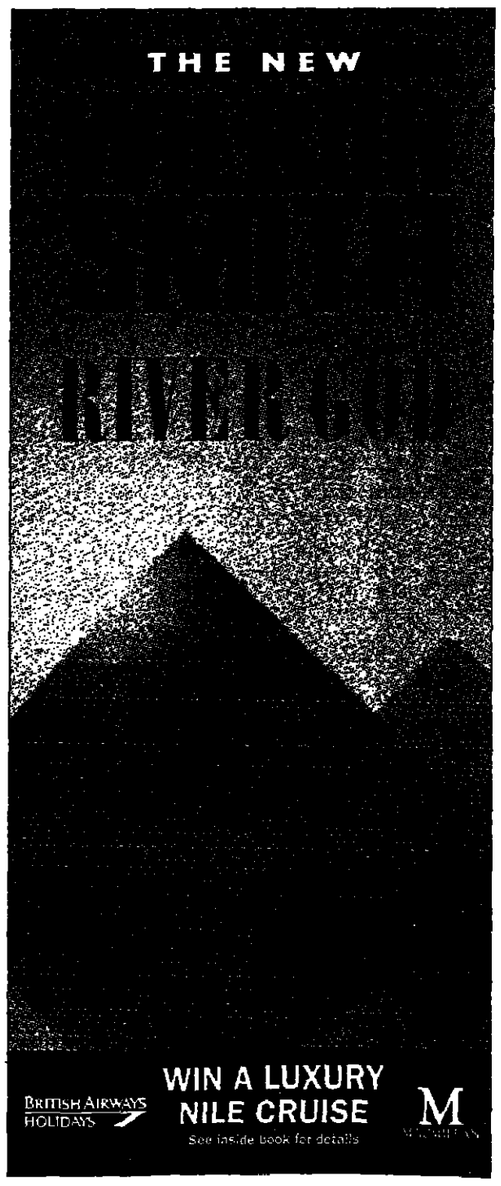
Magee, 45, from Belfast, was stopped in a routine check on the A64 by Special Constable Glenn Goodman, 37, and PC Alexander Kelly, 32, while on his way with an accomplice to carry out what police believe was to have been a close-quarter assassination of an unknown VIP.

Last night a jury found Magee guilty of murder and the attempted murder of PC Kelly, PC Mark Whitehouse and WPC Susan Larkin, both 24, and of possession of firearms with intent to endanger life. Sentence was deferred until today by Mr Justice Laws.

Michael O'Brien, 32, Magee's co-defendant, was the driver of the car. The jury found him not guilty of the murder of SC Goodman and the attempted murder of PC Kelly but convicted him of the attempted murder of the other two officers. He will also be sentenced today.

Magee was convicted in 1981 of the murder of Captain Herbert Westmacott, an undercover SAS officer, in Belfast, and sentenced to 25 years. He shot his way out of prison before serving the sentence and escaped to the republic. In 1991 he absconded while on bail during extradition proceedings in Dublin.

Facing life sentence, page 3



A tale of two ports: opposing sides in the fish war tell their stories

'The navy should sink the lot'

FROM NICHOLAS WATT

THE pent-up anger in Guernsey reached new heights as French fishermen sailed 36 boats into St Peter Port last night to air their grievances about the EC agreement that allows Britain to throw a six-mile fishing limit around the Channel Islands.

Locals had to be rushed off a new cross-Channel ferry, which was on show in St Peter Port, when police closed the harbour. As the French armada appeared on the horizon the captain of the ferry quickly cast off and left harbour to avoid them, successfully evading a French vessel that cut across his bows.

Angry locals jeered the French as their boats cluttered up the harbour. As a delegation of fishermen was escorted to the harbour customs office to talk to Guernsey Sea Fisheries representatives, others clambered up harbour wall ladders where they hurled abuse at policemen, some with dogs, who urged them to return to their boats.

One fisherman shouted: "We are here because of the debacle the British have caused in Cherbourg."

A French journalist who had travelled with them denied that the fishermen were angry. Thierry Motte said: "They are very calm. They just want to talk to the Guernsey fishermen because they feel that they will understand them better than the authorities. The fishermen are worried that they are going to lose their livelihood."

Police had to clear more than 100 locals from the harbour wall who vented their anger at the French. Alan Best, a local boater, said: "The Navy should sink the lot of them. We should reload the canons at Castle Cornet, which overlooks the harbour, to defend us from the French."

Others shouted "pathetic" as the French were allowed to dock and the Royal Navy patrol vessel HMS *Brocklesby*, which had been tailing the armada of boats from Cherbourg, Granville and Carderet, was left hovering outside the harbour. One woman, who wanted to remain anonymous, said: "The police couldn't move the Germans in the war but they're pushing us about now."

Guernsey fishermen, afraid to put out to sea, had spent the day impotently criticising their French counterparts and the Royal Navy. The hotly expressed opinion of many was that the Frenchmen needed a shot across their bows to scare them out of British waters.

Bill Ogier, president of the Guernsey Fishermen's Association, said: "A shot across the bows would certainly frighten them off and we wouldn't then see them lingering for long. The navy weren't afraid to fire in the 1960s and the early 1970s but this time they have done nothing. The French are flouting every law and getting away with it." Mr Ogier was among a group of 20 fishermen who could only stand on the harbourside yesterday. Dave Markwick, who fishes for crabs and lobsters, said he could not see the point of the Royal Navy patrolling the sea round the Channel Islands. "They may as well have spat at the French boats," he said.

Mr Markwick said that Guernsey fishermen, who made 90 per cent of their livelihood from exports to France, were constantly hassled by the French.

"Their trawlers come and drag away our crab pots. They break every rule in the book

ST PETER PORT GUERNSEY

and are always allowed to get away with it. If we behaved like that we'd be locked up."

As the Guernsey fishermen stood in the spring sunshine, the leader of the French delegation, who wanted to remain anonymous, said: "This is a very difficult situation. But we want to talk to the British to reach an agreement."

HMS *Blazer*, the navy training vessel which was boarded by French fishermen on Sunday, returned to St Peter Port last night after spending the night at Cherbourg. Lt Commander Keith Creates, the captain, described the incident. "We were on a routine visit to Cherbourg when about 20 to 25 fishermen boarded us. We secured the nine students below for their own safety because the fishermen were fairly boisterous. There were brief periods of aggression and it was confused because of the language barrier. But there was some co-operation."

ROBIN MAYES



French toasted: ambassador M Dorin arrives for a Foreign Office rebuke

'We have the right to fish those waters'

BY SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH

CHERBOURG

DOWN on the dockside they needed no persuasion to re-enact the humiliation of the Royal Navy as a bizarre, three-person morality play.

"'Elp! Stop!" cried Jean-Marie, playing the part of the entire crew of HMS *Blazer*. "Ha! Ha! Venez pas ici," roared François, playing the part of French Pride in a Boat. "They'll think again before they mess around with us," Patrick, the narrator, said.

All three admitted that, no, they themselves had not actually seen the event take place, but everyone in the town of Cherbourg, an old Normandy port and naval base on the tip of the Cotentin peninsula, knew what had happened.

Fishermen at Cherbourg and Granville, on the west of the peninsula, were reported to be refusing to allow British ships to unload their catches.

The Jersey crabber, *Fleur de France*, which put into Cherbourg for repairs, was prevented from landing its cargo by a group of angry trawlermen, despite the presence of extra police on the quay.

The fishermen in Cherbourg felt the British government needed a shaking-up. "There are about 30 French boats in that area now — that should do the trick," Jean-Marie said, meaning the Channel Islands.

The men said they got on well with their fellow fishermen from the islands and were happy to share all fishing rights with them.

One trawlerman said: "It's the British government that's causing all the problems, making a diplomatic incident out of fishing. We have the right to fish those waters. I have been fishing there since 1950, and my father before that."

Another said that the new rules allowed for anyone fishing the area since 1962 to continue, but banned others. "That's ridiculous. I can fish there, but my son can't. What will they dream up next?"

They said the Royal Navy was being very heavy-handed, and would not let the boats that had dropped baskets go back to the area to retrieve them. "Well, seeing as that's the case, the Guernsey men can forget about unloading here. We just won't let them — but it's nothing personal," another said.

Across the road in the bar they were having a quieter chuckle at the expense of the British. "They're really hysterical when it comes to their flag," one patron said. Another felt that the French fishermen had "gone over the top" on Sunday. "The thing is, now it's outside our control. They really shouldn't have done that business with the Royal Navy," he said.

Elsewhere in the town there were similarly mixed feelings. A woman said: "The English got what they deserved, but it's going to be one of those situations where nobody wins."

France warned, page 1

Rivalry for rich seas runs deep in history

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE rich crab and lobster fishing grounds around the northern Channel Islands have long been a disputed area. French trawlermen feel that they have been kept out unfairly from waters that they have historically fished.

Rules about where trawlers may fish legally vary from area to area. Around Jersey, there has been little difficulty because French trawlers are allowed to within three miles of the beach, even though trawlers from Jersey cannot go closer to the French coast than 12 miles.

In the waters around Guernsey and Alderney, the rules are more complicated. They have a general fishing limit of 12 miles, but, in certain areas, some French

THE DISPUTE

boats have traditionally been allowed to fish to within six.

La Calypso, the French trawler that clashed with the Royal Navy fishery protection vessel HMS *Brocklesby* on Sunday morning was allegedly just inside the six-mile limit, near the Casquet rocks off the west coast of Alderney. No French boats are supposed to come this close.

The earlier incident last Friday, involving the *Impatiens*, another French trawler, occurred between six and 12 miles east off Sark, where the French have long claimed an historic right to fish.

Last September, David Curry, the junior fisheries minister, thought he had reached an agreement with the French to limit their access in these waters to a small "box" known as the Schole Bank, seven miles south of Alderney and 11 miles northeast of Guernsey. Access is restricted to named French boats. The *Impatiens* is on the list, but was fishing illegally outside the box when challenged by a Guernsey patrol boat.

Some French trawlermen have never accepted the validity of this agreement. Enforcement of the complex fishery limits is made more difficult by the proximity of the Channel Islands to the French coast.

French trawlers breaking the rules can easily escape by crossing into French territorial waters, where they are beyond the reach of British fishery protection vessels.

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Welsh Flintstone loves a barney

Shrinking from the prospect of yet another set-piece battle between a wearisome Robin Cook and a stale Michael Heseltine, your sketchwriter looked in on questions to the Welsh secretary yesterday. Is there anything in Wales?

"There is a tidal wave in Wales," declared Peter Hain (Lab, Neath), "in favour of an elected Welsh assembly."

"There is confidence in Wales," cooed Welsh secretary David Hunt, "there is great pride in Wales." Labour denied it. Alan W Williams (Carmarthen) said there was "economic inactivity in Wales". It seems there is little agreement about what there is in Wales.

But on two things we can agree. There is Walter Sweeney (C, Vale of Glamorgan) in Wales; and there is *not* John Marshall.

Mr Marshall was jeered as a non-Welshman when he spoke. He is the Tory MP for Hendon South, in London, but this does not prevent him having opinions about Wales, and almost everywhere else. Marshall is becoming a family favourite at Westminster, resembling TV's Mr Blobby. Readers who follow children's television will be familiar with this lovable chap, rotund of figure and orotund of speech, who is at the same time immensely voluble and completely unintelligible.

"The Rt Hon Gentleman," he began, "the immediate, former, past leader of the Opposition ..." Mr Marshall was in unusually crisp form. Like Blobby, his mouth opens and closes and noises come out in the rhythm of human speech, but it never seems to mean anything. The conviction grows that, like Blobby, he is unlikely to say anything interesting and yet with each year that passes we love him more and feel more certain we should be poorer without him. Thank you, Hendon.

More intelligible was Walter Sweeney, the Tory Euro-rebel from the Vale of Glamorgan. Coming to ministers' aid on the subject of new industry in Wales, he then intervened on a question put down by Win Griffiths (Lab, Bridgend). Griffiths was complaining at proposals to "remove" various villages from Ogwr "and place them in the Vale of Glamorgan" (it seems the Welsh secretary has assumed powers even Ceausescu would have envied). Sweeney welcomed the move.

Silver-tongued he was not: but he was solid. Tomorrow he will be in the Chamber rebelling on Europe: clumsy but steadfast. Listening, I regretted the cheap shots I took during Sweeney's first weeks as an MP last year.

It is not that he has changed, or that he is necessarily right, but that he has stuck to his guns so bravely. Mr Sweeney is a political primitive, a Fred Flintstone of the Tory back benches. But, like Fred, he has stone-age charm. We should not be surprised if he yelled "*yaba-daba-doo*" as he stomped into the Chamber to club Euro-minister Tristan Garel Jones on the head.

His style is wooden, his arguments basic, but he is utterly consistent. He has the smallest majority in the land (19) and machine politicians thought this new recruit from Wales would be a pushover. But whips' bullying and Tory central office arm-twisting in his constituency has not budged him. Night after night he is there, supporting his party in Welsh affairs and almost all else, but not Maastricht.

Not every backbencher is an orator and not every backbencher is always right, but some at least have spine. To a House full of blancmange the electors of the Vale of Glamorgan have sent flint. Thank you, Glamorgan. There is something, after all, in Wales.



80 per cent live in fear of burglary

Domestic burglaries cost insurance companies 27 per cent more in claims last year, up from £591 million to £749 million. A Gallup survey for the Association of British Insurers indicated that eight out of ten people fear that their homes will be burgled. Most people check that all doors and windows are closed or locked before going to bed and almost half have installed extra security, such as a door chain or alarm. Almost one in five rely on a dog to deter burglars.

The most common suggestion to improve security for householders was "more police on the beat", said Gallup. One in three men interviewed admitted that they had been offered stolen items, while only one in six women had been approached. Ten per cent of people said they had no insurance. However, the Central Statistical Office's expenditure survey shows that one in four households have no cover.

Widow sues the MoD

Drunkenness at a Royal Navy base in Norway, where low-cost drinks were on sale and where naval airman Terence Barrett died after drinking too much on his 30th birthday in 1988, was "on occasions rife", a judge was told in the High Court by counsel for Dawn Barrett, 32. Mrs Barrett, of Yeovil, Somerset, is suing the Ministry of Defence for damages on behalf of herself and the couple's son Liam, 6. The ministry denies liability for Mr Barrett's death: he lost consciousness and suffocated on his own vomit.

Tebbit wins libel case

The *New Statesman & Society* magazine paid libel damages yesterday to Lord Tebbit of Chingford, right, former chairman of the Tory party, for repeating an allegation that he had once said "nobody with a conscience votes Conservative". The magazine apologised, agreed to pay damages and Lord Tebbit's legal costs and undertook not to repeat the allegation. Lord Tebbit is to give the damages to charity.



Murder suspect flees

A fugitive sought for questioning about the rape, torture and murder of three schoolgirls in Spain is believed to be in the Irish Republic today after escaping from a cargo ship that arrived in Dublin. Antonio Martins was found as a Spain. But when the ship docked last week Martins, 26, Spanish police officers arrived in Dublin last night to aid the hunt for him.

Inquest accuses doctor

An anaesthetist who left an unconscious patient for 20 minutes while he changed clothes to visit a bank may face Ashford Hospital, Surrey, into the death of Vassell Wright, 27, and referred the case to the Crown Prosecution Service. He was told that Dr Shyrana Sirivardhana had broken hospital rules by leaving a nurse in charge of Mr Wright of Staines, west London, who died of brain damage.

Woman survives three-hour burial as tenement collapses

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

FORTY firemen used their bare hands to rescue a woman who was buried under a mound of rubble for three hours yesterday when a four-storey Glasgow tenement block collapsed.

The woman, 55, was given oxygen and taken on a stretcher to Glasgow's Royal Infirmary, where she was said last night to be "comfortable". Police said the woman, who was on holiday from New York visiting Scottish relatives, would not be named until her family had been informed of the accident.

John Jameson, Strathclyde's firemaster, who oversaw the rescue, said she was lucky to be alive. "She was very badly trapped by her legs and her arms. She had been in a flat on the second floor and was under about nine inches of rubble. We were able to talk to her throughout her ordeal, although at one point she went very quiet and got very cold."

The cause of the collapse at 10.45am yesterday is not yet known, but the building in Glasgow's Springfield Road, a recently refurbished sandstone tenement block owned by Parkhead Housing Association and funded by Scottish Homes, the Scottish quango that funds housing associations, is next door to a plot of land where foundations are being dug for new houses.

A post office and social security office that had been on the site were bulldozed recently.

A spokesman for Scottish Homes said the tenements dated from around 1910. "I don't know anything about mine workings in that particular area, although they are obviously a feature of Glasgow. There have been very few collapses in Glasgow in the past ten years."

Mr Jameson said the rescue operation was particularly difficult because of the risk of a gas explosion and the danger of further collapse. "The rescuers had to excavate the rubble by hand because it would have been too dangerous to use tools," he said.

John Cummins, 34, who lives in nearby Society Street, said: "I heard what I thought was a gas explosion, ran down the street and saw the dust rising. The entire gable end had collapsed." A dressing table could be seen perched precariously on the edge of a bedroom and a pair of pink curtains fluttered in the wind.

Local residents who gathered to watch the rescue attempt said children from St Michael's primary school, directly opposite the destroyed block, often played in the street. They were sent home and people in the adjacent blocks were evacuated.

Parkhead Housing Association refused to comment on the collapse. It was rehousing tenants last night.

Photograph, page 20

Knifeman kills woman in street

Continued from page 1

Bell, a businesswoman in her 40s, was also stabbed to death nearly two years ago. Police said there were some similarities between the two deaths.

Miss Bradley, who flew at one stage with Princess Margaret as part of a BA Queen's Flight team, was attacked as she got into her car in Carbery Avenue.

The attacker was 6ft tall, in his late thirties or early forties, of slim build, gaunt with prominent cheekbones and a large nose. He was wearing a three-quarter length grey coat and a hat like a sou'wester but made from what looked like a black bin liner.

Some witnesses saw Miss Bradley at her car but nobody saw the man until Miss Bradley began to scream. The two moved from the car as though Miss Bradley was being led away. She was still screaming.

A carpenter in his 30s who was driving past saw Miss Bradley being hit. He shouted and the knifeman ran off. The carpenter chased him for more than a mile and confronted the knifeman who avoided him and ran on. The carpenter also threw a bin at the man but it missed.

He called out for help and someone phoned the police but nobody joined the chase.

Yesterday Nick Osborne, Miss Bradley's boy friend, who had known her for 21 years, described her as a "lovely person". "She was relatively quiet, liked going out to eat," he said. Mr Osborne, a teacher at a North Essex school, said that he was on a school trip in Rome at the time of the stabbing. The couple were due to go to Rome this weekend for a holiday.

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IRA gunman faces life sentence for killing policeman

By Michael Horsnell

AN IRA assassin wanted by British security forces since 1981 was convicted at the Old Bailey last night of the murder of special constable Glenn Goodman.

Paul Magee, 45, will be sentenced today by Mr Justice Laws, who will have to take into account a 25-year sentence imposed nearly 12 years ago for the killing of an SAS officer, Capt Herbert Westmacott.

After deliberations lasting seven hours, the jury of eight men and four women also found Magee guilty of the attempted murders of PC Alexander Kelly, 32, PC Mark Whitehouse and WPC Susan Larkin, both 24, and possession of firearms with intent to endanger life.

His co-defendant, Michael O'Brien, 32, was found not guilty of the Goodman murder and attempting to murder PC Kelly. But the jury convicted him of the attempted murders of PC Whitehouse and WPC Larkin and the firearms offence.

Mr Goodman, a married man with an 11-month-old son, was on his first night patrol when he was killed as police in North Yorkshire interrupted an unknown IRA mission.

With PC Kelly, he stopped a Sierra car driven by O'Brien in a routine check on a slip road off the A64 near Tadcaster on June 7 last year.

During the two-week trial, the court was told that O'Brien spent more than 20 minutes with the officers, failing to satisfy requests for documentation and an explanation of their movements before Magee emerged from the passenger door.

Magee killed the special constable with two shots from a handgun and then, in combat position, fired four bullets at PC Kelly. The officer survived because a radio handset he was holding to his ear took the impact of one shot.

The two Belfast-born men then drove off, pursued by PC Whitehouse and WPC Larkin. Five miles away, with dawn breaking on a country road near the North Yorkshire village of Burton Salmon, the Sierra stopped. Magee got out and as PC Whitehouse desperately reversed the police vehicle, he sprayed it with a burst of fire from a sawn-off AK47 Kalashnikov assault rifle. The officers escaped uninjured from the attack.

In nearby Bluebell Wood the two men set their car alight that night to destroy evidence. They spent the next four days living rough, probably in a culvert beneath the A1 southbound carriageway at Ferrybridge.

Their attempts to raise an IRA rescue party failed. On June 11, shopkeepers in Pontefract alerted police after they became suspicious of the Irish accents of two dishevelled men who entered the town separately to buy fresh clothes with £50 notes and to dispose of their soiled garments.

After escaping from Crumlin Road jail, Belfast, in June 1981 while he was awaiting sentence for the Westmacott murder, Magee went on the run in the Irish Republic but was eventually picked up by Irish police in Tralee, co. Kerry, in January 1982.

Under anti-terrorist cross-border legislation he was sentenced to ten years in Ireland for the escape from prison. After serving eight years of his sentence he was released on bail during extradition proceedings which had been brought by the Royal Ulster Constabulary with the intention of ensuring he served the rest of his original sentence.

He absconded in October 1991 and British security forces again lost track of him until he fired on Mr Goodman and the other officers.



Guilty: Mr Justice Laws reads the verdicts on Magee, left, and O'Brien

Police suspect terrorist was sent to assassinate a VIP

By Michael Horsnell

PAUL "Dingus" Magee, a top IRA terrorist on the run, was probably smuggled into Britain to carry out the high profile assassination of a VIP.

On the night he killed PC Glenn Goodman, detectives believe Magee, 45, was on his way to Leeds in search of bigger fish, although they do not know who his intended victim was. However, several senior politicians, including a former Chancellor of the Exchequer and former home secretaries, live in the area, which has several military bases.

PC Goodman was killed with a handgun from weapons that Magee and his co-defendant Michael O'Brien are believed to have dug up from an IRA cache. When the two men were stopped their clothes were wet and their car muddy. O'Brien, 32, was the "fixer", organising suitable vehicles and aid.

On October 15, 1991, he absconded while on bail during an extradition hearing in Dublin over the murder in Northern Ireland of Capt Herbert Westmacott of the SAS.

Magee, one of the IRA's most ruthless assassins, has twice been on the run. A member of the "M60 gang" in Northern Ireland, named after the American-made M60 machinegun they used, Magee has been known to the British security forces since May 1972, when he was convicted of firearms offences, and is suspected of many terrorist attacks.

He has been wanted by the British security forces since 1981, when he shot his way out of Crumlin Road prison in Belfast while awaiting sentence for the murder of Capt Westmacott. Capt Westmacott, who was part of a patrol working on undercover assignment to the SAS in Belfast, was lured into a trap on Antrim Road and shot with an M60 machinegun on May 2, 1980.

After the shooting, the IRA unit was besieged in a Victorian terraced house where it had taken five people hostage, including a three-month-old baby and a toddler. Magee was detained as he ran from the house to a highjacked van parked near by.

Magee, a married man originally from Belfast, was one of eight IRA men who staged the spectacular armed escape from Crumlin Road jail at 3pm on June 10, 1981, injuring two prison officers.

Two days later, Magee was convicted in his absence at Belfast Crown Court of murdering Capt Westmacott and sentenced to life imprisonment with a recommendation that he serve a minimum of 25 years. But Magee had already fled to the republic, where he made an audacious guest appearance ten days later before a cheering crowd of 5,000 at a Provisional Sinn Fein rally in co. Kildare.

He was recaptured in the republic in January 1982 and received ten years' imprisonment at the Dublin Special Criminal Court on a number of charges arising from the Crumlin Road escape under the 1976 cross-border anti-terrorist Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act.

On August 24, 1989, when due for release, Magee was brought before the Dublin District Court to face extradition proceedings on RUC warrants to serve the rest of his sentence for the Westmacott murder. He was ordered to be extradited on October 23, 1989, but appealed. While that was being heard, he was freed on bail on condition that he report daily to the police, but he disappeared.

Yesterday, Det Chief Supt Robin Cooper, who led the North Yorkshire enquiry involving 120 officers, said: "These men belonged to an organisation that exists to kill and in the early hours of Sunday June 7, 1992, they killed to exist."

The considerably public diary of John Major, aged 50

Premier notches up half century

By Jonathan Prynn

AN UNLIKELY combination of apples, cricket and coal dominated the prime minister's birthday yesterday as he celebrated his half century.

John Major, who has held three of the highest offices of state before his fiftieth birthday, was the youngest prime minister this century when he entered Number 10 in November 1990.

After marking the occasion privately with his family at the weekend, Mr Major could expect and received little respite in his schedule.

However, some light relief was provided by lunch at his beloved Oval cricket ground in south London as guest of Surrey County Cricket Club, of which he is a vice-chairman. A distinguished line-up of past and present Surrey luminaries was in attendance including Alec and Eric Bedser, Peter May and Alec Stewart, the vice-captain of the England cricket team, perhaps the only legal organisation in the country currently attracting more opprobrium than Her Majesty's government.

The lunch, at which Mr Major was presented with a cake in the shape of a cricket bat and ball, provided the filling in a sandwich of worthy bilateral meetings with foreign leaders. Late morning saw Mr Major receiving Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister of Pakistan. Back from the Oval in the afternoon, Mr Major met President Niyazov of the former Soviet republic of Turkmenistan.

Earlier, Mr Major had got his birthday schedule off to a healthy start with the presentation of a basket of 50 bramley apples to mark the launch of bramley apple week. They were handed over by four-year-old Sian Wright, from Southwell, Nottinghamshire, the great, great, great granddaughter of Henry Merryweather, the man who promoted the bramley apple in the 19th century.

But the prime minister disappointed photographers and television crews, refusing to supply the birthday soundbite they were looking for by tucking in to one of the apples.

After a reception at Buckingham Palace last night, Mr Major turned his attention to the most serious business of the day, casting his vote in the crucial division on the coal debate. Downing Street officials said letters had been pouring in all day from all over the world. Among more distant well wishers were the Australian government, which sent a cake, and the Saudi government, which gave a huge bunch of flowers.

Closer to home, Tory MP Sir Nicholas Fairbairn wrote: "This is a Major occasion. I am not sure whether his years are 50, his temperature is 50, his girth is 50 or his IQ is 50. But whichever it is, I wish him 200 good wishes on his fiftieth birthday."

Diary, page 16



MICHAEL POWELL

Birthday crop: John Major receives a gift of apples from Sian Wright, 4

Ex-GCHQ man spied on vet for 18 months

By A Staff Reporter

A FORMER worker at GCHQ, the government's listening post, was fined £400 yesterday for spending 18 months spying on a woman and recording details of her every move.

Colin Hills, 51, was also ordered to pay £250 compensation to Sarah Fowler, a vet. His campaign against her had driven her to change her home and job and move away from Gloucestershire. "Everything she did was logged and noted down in a series of text books," Sian Sullivan, for the prosecution, told Gloucester magistrates. "It was a terrifying experience."

The court had been told that Hills' "campaign" had included waiting outside Miss Fowler's home in the mornings, following her to work at her surgery in Cheltenham and on her daily visits to clients, climbing on to the balcony of her home and peering in through the window to draw sketch plans of her flat.

At an earlier hearing, Hills, of Cheltenham, had pleaded guilty to two charges of disorderly conduct.

Mrs Sullivan said Hills first met Miss Fowler when she treated his dying cat. He then took his guinea-pigs to her for treatment. "That was the start of his campaign," she said. "But it was not until he was arrested for another offence and police searched his house that they realised the extent of what had been going on. Then they found a series of school exercise books logging every move Miss Fowler had made. Some of the records were of actions only ten minutes apart. He was watching her all the time."

Hills was caught on Christmas day, peering in through Miss Fowler's living room window. "He never intended any injury to this lady," said Tim Robinson, for the defence. "He accepts some of the notes he made should not have been kept but he also says there has been a great misunderstanding here. Hills regards this as a chapter in his life which is now closed."

Hills still faces a further charge of breaking an order binding him over to keep the peace and to stay away from Miss Fowler.

Broadmoor inquest reopens

A VIOLENT patient died in Broadmoor psychiatric hospital after he was injected with abnormally large doses of tranquillising drugs during a struggle with staff, an inquest was told yesterday.

The inquest was the second into the death of Orville Blackwood, 31, who suffered acute heart failure in August 1991 after being injected with 150mg of Sparine and 150mg of Modecate. A previous verdict was quashed by the High Court.

Blackwood, from Stockwell, south London, suffered from schizophrenia and bouts of depression and had a history of violent behaviour.

On the morning of his death, a doctor saw him to discuss medication. He hit out and several staff were called. A nurse, Vincent Garreb, administered the two injections and a minute later Blackwood was motionless and had no pulse.

Dr Robert Ferris, the consultant forensic psychiatrist in charge of Blackwood's medication and treatment, agreed under cross-examination that the 150mg dose of Modecate was one-and-a-half times the recommended maximum but said a Mental Health Act commission had authorised doses of up to 200mg for Blackwood. The inquest continues today.

Disney park bows to European tastes

By Harvey Elliott
Travel Correspondent

EURO Disney, which is one year old next month, is rapidly distancing itself from its American heritage and adopting more European cultural habits in an attempt to break even within the next three years.

Prices are being reduced in the winter, eating arrangements changed to cater for European tastes and local festivals celebrated in preference to US-style holidays.

Euro Disney officials admitted yesterday that they had made mistakes in the first 12 months of operation which, although attracting almost exactly the 11 million visitors they had predicted four years ago, is still losing money.

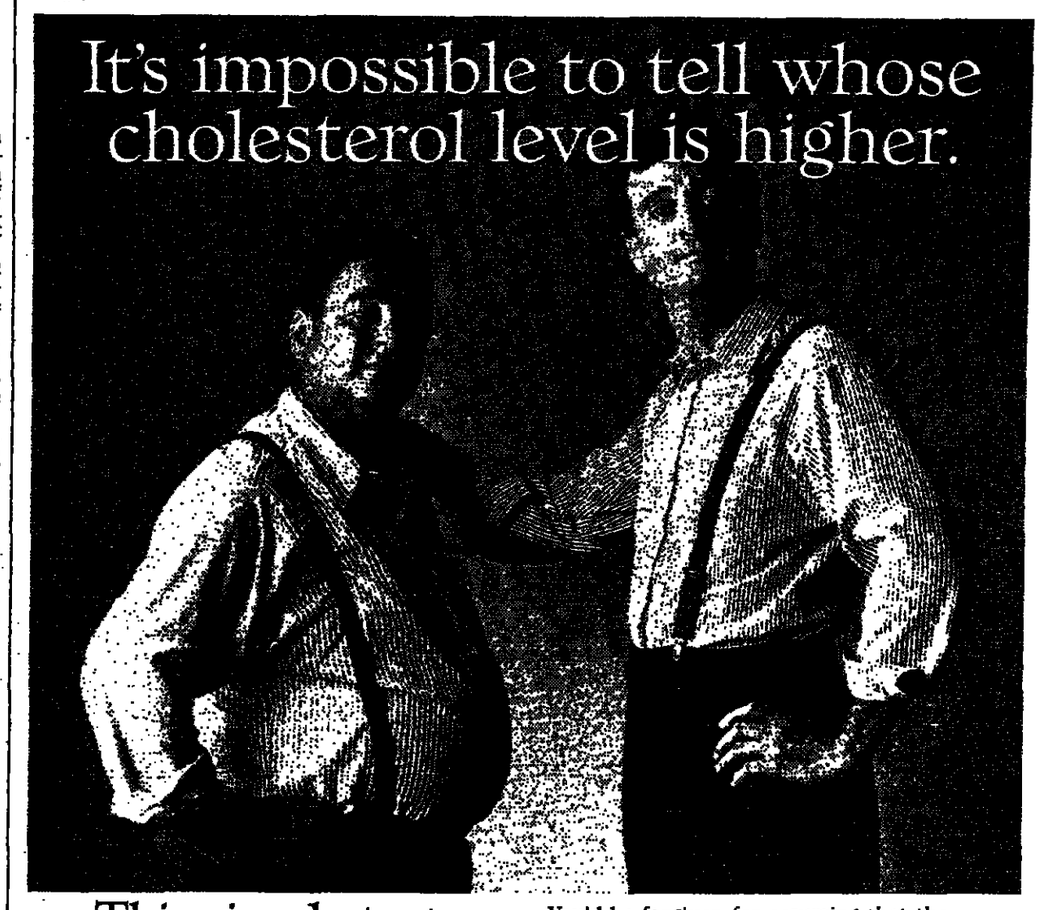
Because the weather badly affects the number of visitors in the winter, Euro Disney has decided to raise its prices in the summer when demand is at its heighest, keep them as they are now in the spring and autumn, but reduce them in the winter.

The theme park had anticipated that visitors would follow the American pattern of "grazing", eating small amounts at regular intervals throughout the day. But Europeans seem to want a proper lunch break in the middle of the day, so the pattern of the parade of characters has been changed to stretch the lunch period from one to three hours. Food prices, especially for children, are being cut but Euro Disneyland officials are still divided over whether to allow the sale of alcohol.

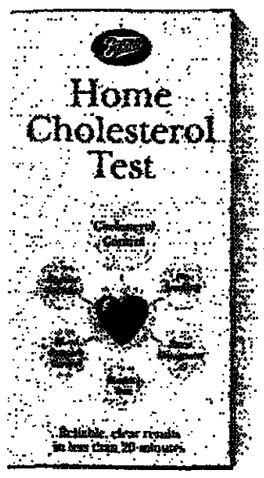
From now on, special attractions will take place to celebrate Guy Fawkes (Britain), Bastille Day (France), Oktoberfest (Germany), Queen Beatrix's birthday (The Netherlands) and St Lucy's Day (Scandinavia).

Subtle changes in the entrance procedures are also being made to overcome the fact that only 50 per cent of European visitors have credit cards and take far longer to write out cheques. Hundreds of tourist coaches arrive each day at the site, but because the American planners were used to US visitors arriving by car they made almost no provision for the bus drivers. That is being changed.

A French president takes over next month and special cut-price tickets will be made available for local families wanting to visit in the evening. A range of new attractions, including a covered water park to keep out the rain, are planned to open within the next two years.



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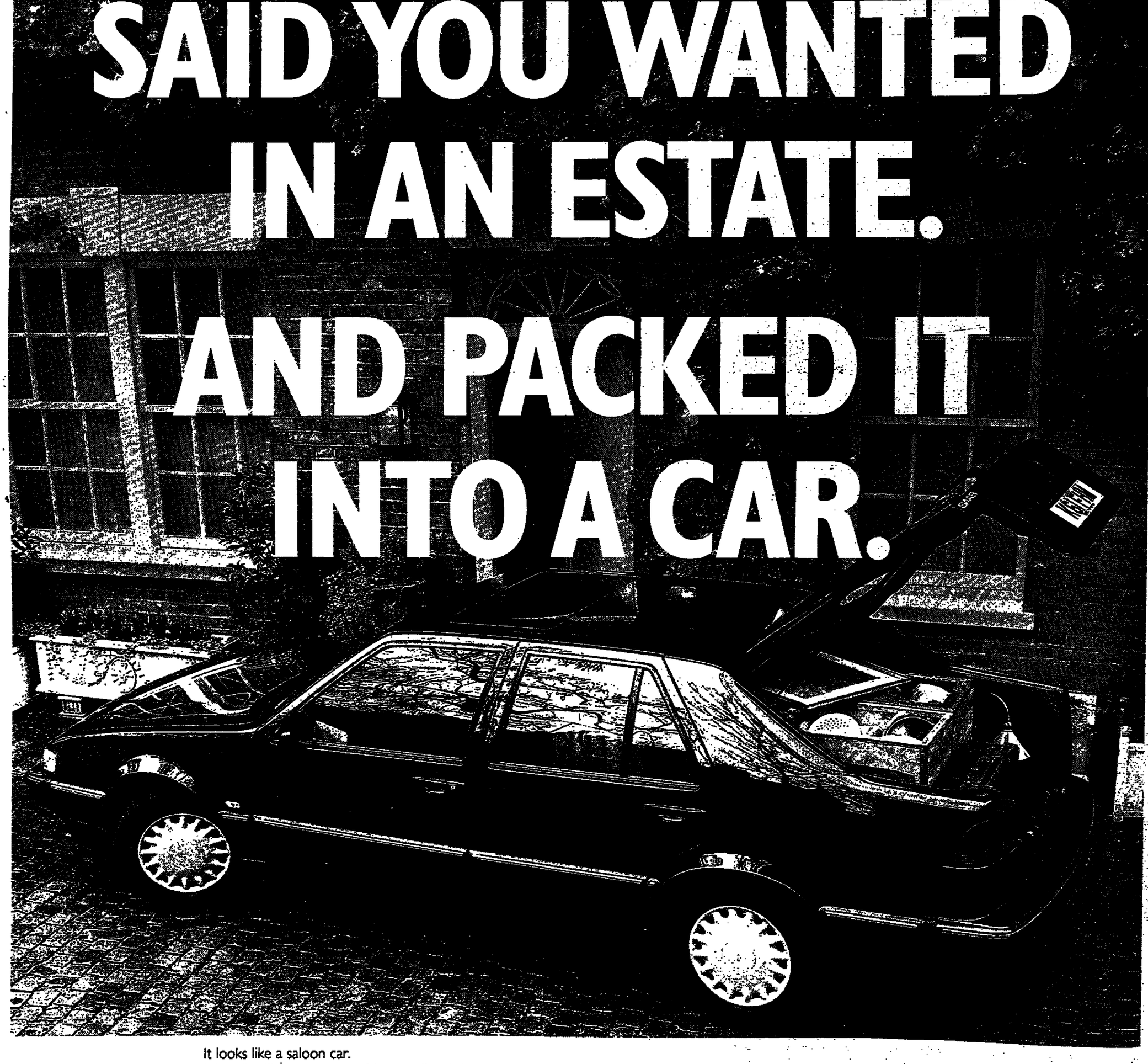
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Hundreds join demonstration as replacement workforce enters electronics factory

Police halt busload of Timex pickets

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A BUS full of Militant supporters and Socialist Workers Party members, who planned to join the picket line outside the Timex electronics factory in Dundee yesterday, was stopped twice by police and prevented from reaching the factory until the newly recruited workforce was safely inside.

The police tactics echoed those used in the miners' strike in 1984, when roadblocks prevented flying pickets from Yorkshire reaching the Nottinghamshire coalfield.

Despite the absence of the Glasgow protesters, a crowd of nearly 500 gathered outside the plant, jeering and shouting abuse at the new workforce, some of whom wore balaclavas to protect their identities or lay on the floors of their buses.

There was one arrest yesterday, compared with 16 last week amid some of the worst violence seen on a picket line since the mid-1980s. Those supporting the sacked Timex workers had called for an even bigger demonstration yesterday, but Campbell Christie, general secretary of the Scottish Trades Union Congress, made a plea for no violence.

Both calls were heeded. Young men with close cropped hair stood shoulder to shoulder with grey-haired women to protest at the sacking of the mostly female, 340-strong workforce last month. Between the deafening choruses of "scab" when the buses and cars carrying the new workforce approached the plant, protesters chatted amicably with 70 police.

The police, defending their decision to stop the Glasgow bus, said that they had received information that it carried a person who, as part of bail conditions imposed last Monday, had been banned from entering the area. They had also been told that the bus contained "offensive weapons which would cause horrific injury and damage". The information proved incorrect.

Ronnie Stevenson, Scottish Militant Labour party secretary, said: "We will be back as long as the Timex workers want us back. I think today's demonstration showed the support of ordinary working class people throughout Scotland."

It was freezing cold and the demonstrators were reduced to burning their banners after police confiscated wood intended for pickets' braziers. But slogans such as "This whole episode stinks of Thatcherism" and "Welcome to the new third world" fluttered in the breeze.

Much of the protesters' anger was directed at the plant's managing director, Peter Hall, who joined the American-owned company 18 months ago. Christine Wright and Marlene Dejernier, who were both sacked from Timex after 12 years with the company, vented their anger against Mr Hall. "He's arrogant, ruthless and heartless," Mrs Wright said.

Both women believe they will get their jobs back but say it would be impossible to work with Mr Hall. They were being paid about £110 a week when they worked for Timex and are on the picket line every day, with the other ex-Timex workers, handing round mounds of sandwiches and supporting each other. "This has completely disrupted our family life," Mrs Dejernier said.

Mr Hall has said he is determined to ride out the protest, which he believes will blow over in time. He says he had no alternative but to sack the workforce and recruit a new one after a strike threatened to disrupt orders and jeopardise the business.

Militant voice, page 9
City at war, page 14



Time of unrest: protesters outside the plant in Dundee yesterday yell abuse at workers being ushered in

Warrington shocking, says Adams

BY EDWARD GORMAN
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

GERRY Adams, the president of Sinn Fein, yesterday tried to distance himself from the IRA's Warrington bombings, saying they had shocked republicans and should not be repeated.

However Mr Adams, speaking in a BBC interview, said he would not call on the IRA to end its campaign. He was prepared to work for a solution which could eventually be put to the IRA.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, welcomed the upsurge in anti-IRA sentiment at a big rally in Dublin at the weekend. Speaking in Londonderry, he said ordinary people were sending a clear message to the IRA that it did not speak or act for Ireland.

In Dublin, preparations continued for a series of events in the cause of peace. A minute's silence will be held before the start of the World Cup match between the Republic and Northern Ireland in the city tomorrow. There will be a day of action next Sunday coinciding with a peace rally in Hyde Park, London.

Patten tells schools to specialise

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Patten, the education secretary, yesterday urged more grant-maintained schools to specialise, and endorsed the principle of selection while ruling out any widespread return to the 11-plus.

In a speech in Birmingham to heads of grant-maintained school, he said that many schools that had opted out of local authority control wanted to go beyond the requirements of the national curriculum by developing specialisms in technology, languages, sport, music or art.

Ruling out a widespread return to the 11-plus, he held up the example of Queen Elizabeth school in Penrith, Cumbria, where candidates for a selective stream are to be chosen on the basis of primary school records of achievement and national curriculum assessment.

Mr Patten acknowledged that many schools were committed to remaining comprehensive. Only six grant-maintained schools out of more than 500 are said to be pursuing grammar school status. Although others are developing strengths in particular subjects, such as technology, few are yet planning to make formal changes.



Patten: ruled out return to 11-plus

NUS issues challenge to ministers

BY BEN PRESTON
EDUCATION REPORTER

THE National Union of Students challenged the government to an open debate yesterday about its plans to end the virtual closed shop on campuses. Lorna Fitzsimons, president of the NUS, told its annual conference in Blackpool that students were proud of their democracy and had nothing to be ashamed of.

The traditional image of students as decadent, subversive and privileged had never been further from the truth. Student unions gave people a sense of responsibility and were a model of collective, co-operative self-organisation "and as such are an example to the nation".

The appeal came as it was disclosed that the government was expected to make a Commons statement after Easter confirming its intention to legislate to give 1.5 million students choice over union membership. The changes, which may not be introduced for at least two years, will end automatic membership of local and national unions and put the onus on students to opt in.

John Patten, the education secretary, won plaudits at the Conservative party conference last October by announcing he would scrap the students' closed shop, but ran into difficulties because many campus unions are enshrined in university charters.

While the government boasted about increased student numbers and the quality of education, student unions told the truth about underfunding, hardship and debt, Ms Fitzsimons said. "The plain fact is that an education system which should be the nation's badge of pride is its mark of shame."

She appealed to conference delegates to act responsibly in the debate over the government's plans. The advice is unlikely to be heeded by vociferous left-wingers.

Drug abuse doubles

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY

YOUNG people are becoming more cautious about sex and money but bolder about drugs, according to a survey of youth lifestyles.

The advent of Aids has modified sexual behaviour, and the recession has had a similar effect on spending habits, making saving a top priority. But nothing has stopped the increase in drug use by the young, the survey by Mintel discloses.

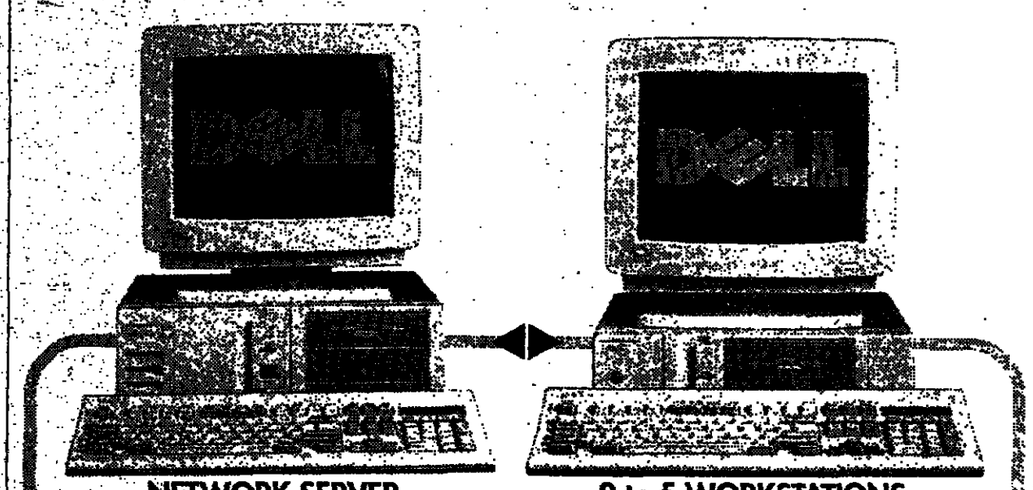
In the three years between 1989 and 1992, the numbers of 15 to 24-year-olds admitting to using hard and soft drugs nearly doubled, from 16 per cent to 29 per cent. Those using hard drugs had more than tripled, from 2 per cent to 7 per cent.

Nearly half of all young people say they have changed their sexual behaviour because of the Aids risk. More than 67 per cent say they would not sleep with someone on the first date, compared with 55 per cent in 1989.

Six out of ten 15 to 24-year-olds put saving as their financial priority, and the survey found that young people were more likely than adults to have had their spending plans curtailed in the past year.

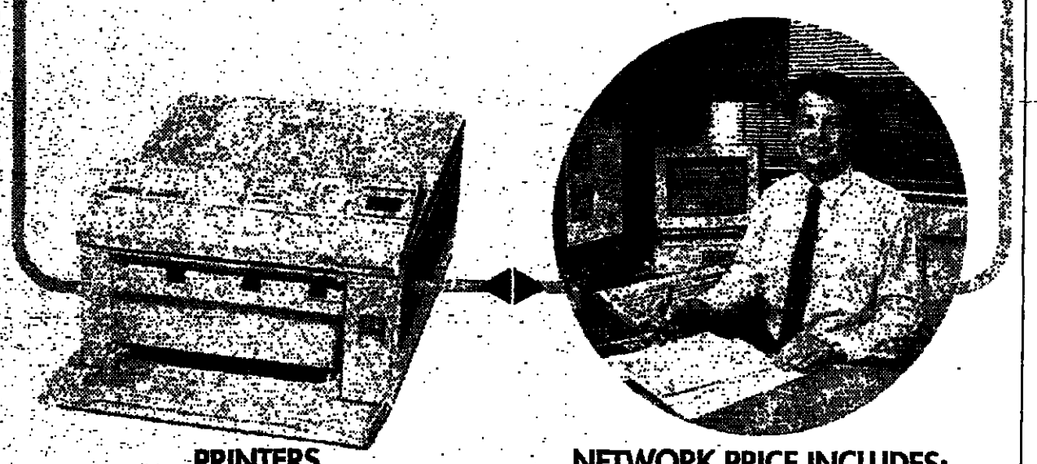
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VCs will see review

Lest we forget: RAF makes belated amends to The Few

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE "forgotten six" decorated airmen from the second world war who were not invited to the Royal Air Force's seventy-fifth anniversary review parade on April 1 have been remembered after all. Invitations were winging their way to their homes yesterday.

The six veterans, four of whom hold the Victoria Cross, had been left off the invitation list to attend the ceremony at RAF Marham in Norfolk, although the Ministry of Defence had issued 500 tickets to air associations.

The six are "Johnnie" Johnson, ace Spitfire pilot who shot down more enemy planes than any other British airman, "Laddie" Lucas, who commanded a Spitfire squadron during the siege of Malta, and VCs Norman Jackson, John Cruickshank, Bill Reid and Roderick Learoyd.

Air Vice-Marshal James "Johnnie" Johnson, 77, who shot down 38 enemy aircraft and was awarded the DSO and two bars, the DFC and bar, and a number of foreign decorations, said he had been invited by the French to Bayeux to attend the fiftieth anniversary of the Normandy landing in which he flew the first Spitfire flight into France. "I shall go to that celebration," he said.

He admitted that he was "sad and disappointed" that he had not been sent an invitation to the RAF's review parade at Marham, which will include a fly-past by 148 aircraft in front of the Queen and five other members of the royal family.

Before the hasty ring-around to invite the veterans, AVM Johnson was adamant that he would not go even if asked. Speaking from his home in Buxton, Derbyshire, he said: "There must have been an administrative cock-up. I wouldn't go now, it's too late, although it would have been nice."

The former Spitfire pilot will be at RAF Sealand in Chester where he learnt to fly, celebrating the anniversary with other chums. "I am committed to another engagement, so when they phone I'll just tell them I hope they have a nice day," he said.

AVM Johnson, who is one of the vice-presidents of the Air Crew Association, learnt his flying skills as a young pilot in 1941 with Sir Douglas Bader.

Interviewed in a new book (*There Shall be Wings* by Max Arthur), to celebrate the RAF's seventy-fifth anniversary, AVM Johnson described what it was like to fly with Sir Douglas.

He said: "I was alone at about 20,000ft with the bombers withdrawing and I had three or four Messerschmitts up my arse . . . out of the corner of my eye I saw a Spitfire going away from me. I said, 'it's Johnnie here. I'm calling the Spitfire about eight hundred yards, can you give me a hand?' "

Sir Douglas replied: "OK Johnnie, I'm turning, I can see you . . . pretend you haven't seen them, I'll come up and we'll each get one."

The defence ministry said yesterday that every effort was being made to contact those such as Johnnie Johnson who had not been invited to the review celebrations.

AVM Johnson said that the Air Crew Association had been sent 40 tickets for the celebrations but he understood there was to have been a separate arrangement for him and the other vice-presidents.

Daniel Boon, general secretary of the Air Crew Association, said: "I'm told things are being done to put it right at the highest level."



BARRY GREENWOOD

Missing from action: Johnnie Johnson, Spitfire ace, who says it is too late to attend the RAF's fly-past now

Trout anglers win £10,000 damages

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

ANGLERS won a legal victory yesterday when they were awarded £10,200 damages for ruin caused to their pursuit of the native wild brown trout by the invasion of shoals of farm-reared trout.

In a test case keenly watched by fly-fisherman, fish-breeders and conservationists, Judge Dyer found that a trout farm that was alleged to have let thousands of rainbow trout escape into a prime stretch of the river Kennet was guilty of negligence and nuisance.

Judge Dyer, sitting at Swindon County Court, made the award, with costs estimated at £10,000 and £2,750 interest on the damages to the members of the Savernake Fly Fishing Club who had brought the case against Gale & Ainslie Ltd, former owners of the trout farm near Marlborough, Wiltshire.

The nuisance, Judge Dyer said, had been a substantial one and not just a fleeting incident. He added that the owners of the farm had been negligent in not effecting repairs to prevent escapes.

Allen Edwards, director of the Anglers' Co-operative Association, said the ruling would pave the way for similar prosecutions involving the river Nidd in Yorkshire and the river Eamont in the northeast of England.

The brown trout is considered to be the aristocrat of fish by anglers, because it is cunning and puts up an excellent fight when hooked. For that reason, fly fishing on the river was at a premium. Members of the club paid £500 a year to fish there.

The action was brought by Roy Broderick, the fishing club's secretary, with Dorothy Brown, the leaseholder, on behalf of the club, after the escape of the voracious farm-reared rainbow trout into the Kennet from the farm at Mildenhall, near Marlborough, in 1990.

Mr Broderick claimed the shoals of rainbow trout ruined 40 per cent of the 1990 angling season, as they pestered fisherman who were attempting to catch the more wily brown trout.

Judge Dyer had been told earlier in evidence by John Hounslow, river keeper for the club, that the rainbow trout were destroying the challenge of fishing. "It is not sporting to go out and catch a fish every time you cast."

Outcry at £800 road deaths fine

Angry relatives shouted from the public gallery of Maidstone Crown Court yesterday when Andrew Morgan, 26, was fined £800 and banned from driving for four years for careless driving after an accident in which four teenage army cadets died. One woman had to be held back as she yelled: "I'm going to kill him."

Morgan, a territorial army sergeant of Camberwell, south London, had been convicted at a previous hearing but found not guilty of causing the deaths by dangerous driving of Shane Shockley, 15, Rachel McGuinness, 15, Lisa Fenich, 15, and 13-year-old Sylvia Palmor, all from Camberwell.

The court was told that nine cadets were thrown from a minibus driven by Morgan when he tried to overtake at high speed on the M20 and hit the central reservation.

Key witness

The Rev Bramwell Bearcroft, chaplain at Kimbolton School, Cambridgeshire, foiled a raid by four masked men when he snatched the keys from their getaway car. The thieves abandoned their £1,500 haul of televisions and audio players and fled on foot.

Twins reunited

Roy Withers, of Chatham, Kent, said his twin, Betty Thompson of Halifax, West Yorkshire, have been reunited after 66 years. They were separated at five months when she was adopted.

Third gas death

Deborah Mason, 32, died in hospital after the death of her husband and four-year-old son. The family was overcome by gas fumes at a holiday home in Millhown, Devon. A son aged 2 is critically ill.

Marriage ends

A former chairman of the Bar, Anthony Scrivener QC, 57, was divorced by his wife Irene in an undefended High Court petition in London.

On the ball

Members of Clifton rugby club, Bristol, were interviewed by police after a motorist saw a pornographic video playing in their coach on the M4.

Survivors tell how canoes capsized

BY A STAFF REPORTER

FOUR schoolgirls yesterday recalled the moment when their canoes capsized "like dominoes" in a tragedy in which four of their friends died.

Trouble hit the school party after only ten minutes of the scheduled two-hour trip when Norman Pointer, a teacher accompanying them, capsized, Samantha Stansby, 17, said.

The pupils from Southway Comprehensive school in Plymouth were at the start of a week's stay at the St Albans outdoor Centre, Lyme Regis, Dorset, on Monday last week.

The other survivors were Joanna Willis and Emma Hartley, both 16, and Marie Rendle, 17. The four who died after spending up to six hours in the water were Simon Dunne and Claire Langley, both 16, and Dean Sayer and Rachel Walker, both 17. They were accompanied on the canoe trip by Karen Gardner and Tony Mann, instructors both aged 23.

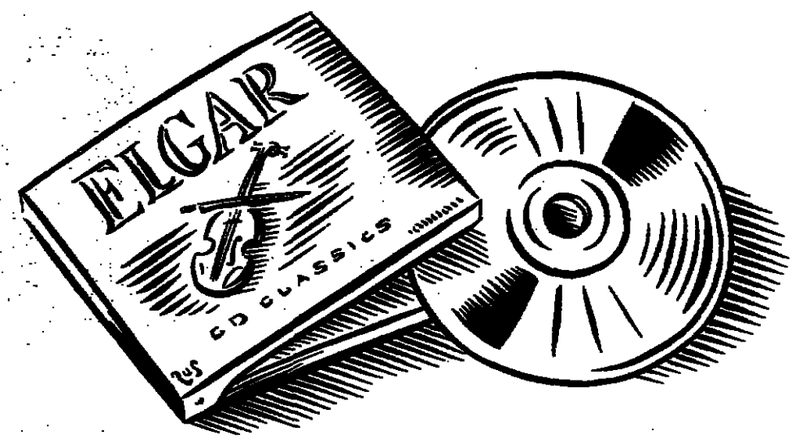
Thirty minutes after Mr Pointer capsized, the youngsters were told to form their canoes into a "raft" which then started drifting. Samantha said at a news conference.

Emma said that when Dean capsized "we gradually all went over one after the other, like dominoes really".

Samantha said she and Emma decided to swim for the shore after a couple of hours. "I thought someone might spot us and go for the others. I felt scared leaving the group and could not feel my hands." Emma said she became exhausted and added: "I must have fallen asleep. Then I was woken up by the helicopter." Samantha said: "The only thing keeping me awake was the water going into my mouth. I opened my eyes and saw a man looking down. I've never been so thankful in my life to see a smiling face."

The canoeists were all wearing wet suits and jackets but the canoes were not equipped with flares and they had no spray decks, they said.

Samantha said: "There was nothing more they could have shown us that would have helped us in that situation."



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Tebbit: Italian ills will come to Britain

Maastricht treaty will open door to Mafia corruption, claims Tebbit

By Nicholas Wood and Jamie Dettmer

IF BRITAIN ratifies the Maastricht treaty, public life would be at risk of succumbing to the same kind of Mafia corruption now inflicting Italy, Lord Tebbit said last night.

In some of his most inflammatory remarks to date in his crusade against European integration, the former Conservative party chairman seized on the political convulsions in Rome and the allegations surrounding Giulio Andreotti, seven times Italian prime minister. Japanese and American traders favoured London partly because it was "more honest" than rival centres and it was "absurd" to suggest that if the treaty was rejected they would take their custom to "less satisfactory" European cities.

"It is bad enough to realise that for years at European councils of ministers, one of the 12 ministers seated at the table has been tainted with the stench of the Mafia. Imagine what we would have said if such a connection had been discovered in the highest reaches of the American government."

Speaking at a London conference on the impact of the treaty on the City, Lord Tebbit also warned against the "non-criminal aspects of the regulation" that would stem from greater powers for the Brussels Commission over financial institutions. "Look at what is happening in a sector so basic and simple as meat processing as our slaughterhouses are brought up to the standard of the Greeks.

"The fact is that the principal danger to the City of London is not that we might refuse to ratify Maastricht and lose business to Frankfurt. That is a silly myth. The danger is that we might ratify Maastricht and lose our business to New York, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Singapore and, before long, Shanghai." Lord Tebbit said he was unimpressed by City establishment figures, who accused him of not knowing his business as a politician when their banks "have lost billions of shareholders' money" through bad decisions.

Euro-sceptic Tory MPs organising a campaign to persuade the government to hold a referendum on the Maastricht treaty claimed yesterday that they had been inundated by telephone callers offering help and support.

Hundreds of calls have been logged at the offices of the Maastricht referendum campaign since Lord Tebbit argued at the weekend that a mass public response to the nationwide petition for a plebiscite would greatly enhance the case for a referendum.

The reprinting of the referendum petition by *The Times* and two tabloid newspapers on Sunday and yesterday also appears to have galvanised the public.

More than 100,000 copies of the petition have already been distributed and another 90,000 will be sent out over the next two days. With the Maastricht bill already going through the Commons, the campaign organisers need the forms returned by this weekend.

Letters, page 17

Heseltine rules out two-year deadline for pits subsidy

By Robert Morgan, Political Staff

THE coal pits reprieved last week would continue to get a government subsidy after two years if they could create new markets, Michael Heseltine told MPs yesterday.

The President of the Board of Trade, opening a Commons debate on future of the mining industry, outlined a package of measures designed to ameliorate the effects of the five-month pit review.

He denied suggestions that the subsidy to allow the threatened pits compete with imports would end after two years. If private operators bought pits facing closure and could point to additional markets they would continue to get the subsidy, he said. But he made it clear that the subsidy would not apply if the coal went to power stations as part of the core contracts.

He said that privatisation of the industry might well go ahead in two years. If it did not, the subsidies would continue. "I have guaranteed that no pit threatened with closure will be closed without the private sector being given the chance to operate it.

"In that context I am prepared to offer the private sector equivalent subsidy arrangements, subject to the relevant EC provisions, if they can demonstrate they can secure a genuinely additional market."

Mr Heseltine said his three aims were: to create a wider market for coal; to provide British Coal with a "tapering" subsidy; and to press ahead with privatisation of the industry.

Enterprise zones were likely to set up in areas badly hit by pit closures and other areas might get additional regional help, he said. "If, as a consequence of the proposals announced by British Coal last Thursday, there is a substantial reduction in employment in mines in the vicinity of Easington, in Co Durham, the Dearne Valley or Mansfield, we intend that enterprise zones should be set up in each relevant area."

These were expected to generate several thousand new jobs and to attract significant new investment over the next ten years. "Their aim is to stimulate the construction of new manufacturing and commercial premises and promote economic diversity by introducing new enterprises."

Help would be provided in other areas by extending regional enterprise grant schemes for small firms in areas not already being helped. Extra cash would also go to regional development organisations in the North East, Yorkshire and the West Midlands. English Estates had put together a programme to provide industrial space to support 18,000 jobs.

During an ill-tempered opening to the debate, Mr Heseltine infuriated Labour MPs by going over their record in office and causing a number to interrupt and say that the miners were interested in the future, not the past. Robin Cook, the shadow trade and industry secretary, said Mr Heseltine had given the House a rendition of the pantomime villian. But the place for a pantomime villian was on the pantomime stage, not when introducing a debate on a major strategic industry and when "30,000 grown men, men of dignity and courage, deserve better than the vamping performance today".

Mr Cook asked how Mr Heseltine had arrived at his figure of 12 pits to be reprieved. It had nothing to do with the size of the subsidy, Mr Cook said, but everything to do with persuading rebel Tory backbenchers to join him in the lobbies. It was "the figure he needs to turn rebels into loyalists", he said. The President of the Board of Trade was digging a pit for them to fall into because "one year from now not one of those pits will be open", he said.

Richard Caborn, chairman of the trade and industry select committee that looked into the future of the coal industry, said that Mr Heseltine's white paper failed to live up to the committee's proposals.

The Tory-dominated group, he said, had put foward a package that would not only have secured the medium and long-term future of the industry, but laid a foundation for an energy strategy for the next century. He feared that the government's white paper would increase the pace of the "dash for gas" and that in a few years there would be only 12 to 14 pits left.

☐ A multi-million compensation package for miners suffering from chest diseases was unveiled yesterday (Nicholas Wood writes). Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, said he was adding chronic bronchitis and emphysema to the list of illnesses for which industrial injury disablement benefit is payable.

The benefit, ranging from £20 to £200 a week, is payable on top of retirement pensions.

THE POLITICAL INTERVIEW

Militant finds a moderate new voice

ROBIN MAYES



Working-class hero: Lynn Walsh, a leading member of Militant Labour, at Westminster yesterday

THOSE mesmerised by the anger once vented by Militant Tendency activists might be perplexed by the gentle and restrained language surrounding today's birth of a new Militant movement. Militant Labour today starts its campaign to woo disaffected working class voters through the use of terms such as "sober, open and balanced discussion".

Such moderate language slips comfortably from the lips of Lynn Walsh, one of the leading forces behind the launch of an "independent socialist organisation" intent on swinging the Labour party back towards its working class roots. The measured tones of Mr Walsh do not disguise the anger that he and others in the movement still feel about both their treatment by the Labour party and what they view as "the capitalist catastrophe" awaiting Britain. He does not attempt to dress up the party's distaste for what is seen as Labour's betrayal in expelling hundreds of Militant Tendency members in a five-year purge.

But when he insists that the future of Militant Labour will be based on reasoned argument and persuasion, rather than violent confrontation, there is good cause to believe him. Since 1964, through his position on the executive board of *Militant* newspaper, he has seen the maturing of a party once denounced angrily by Neil Kinnock and now publicly ignored by the Labour leadership.

"There is a new confidence in Militant which has been gained from being independent. We can set our own rules and we can build on the strong feelings among those who have seen that Labour's politicians are out of touch with the people."

Claiming 5,000 members, the party plans to form 200 branches, hold an annual conference open to the press and make itself more accessible, especially to the young.

Today's launch has been buoyed by results from a Lambeth council by-election last week which gave a Militant Labour candidate 12 per cent of the vote, more than the Tory candidate. The result follows a succession of victories in Scottish local elections, where the year-old sister party, Scottish Militant Labour, has gained six Strathclyde seats.

Mr Walsh is well aware of the dangers of the party being perceived as relevant only in big cities such as Glasgow, London and Liverpool. "We want to press into the cities which are, in population terms, second division but which have a strong Labour base. As Labour is seen as an extension of the Tory party, there are many who feel that they do not have a party."

He cites Militant's role in activating mass opposition to the poll tax and the government's pit closure programme as proof that there is a deep frustration among disillusioned workers and the unemployed. The trade union movement will be a key recruiting ground for a party which views with horror any attempts by Labour to weaken its union links.

Mr Walsh fervently rejects the suggestion that Militant would welcome such a move by Labour, offering his party an easier entreé into union circles. "The last thing we would want is for Labour to cut off its remaining links with working people."

Rather than being deterred by the collapse of socialism in Eastern Europe, Spain, Italy and, most recently, France, Mr Walsh sees the disintegration as the necessary forerunner to the disenchantment which will spawn a new era of socialism.

"In the next five or ten years, the market economy will be seen to be catastrophic for the majority of people. As it becomes clear that the market economy is on the downward spiral forever, there will be renewed calls for a socialist alternative. It is for that reason that socialism must be retained. If we can push Labour to re-adopt socialist policies, we will have proved effective."

Timex protest, page 5
City at war, page 14

Ministers plan to sell Post Office

By Nicholas Wood
Political Correspondent

PLANS to sell off the Post Office to the public in a flotation that would raise at least £2 billion to £3 billion for the Exchequer are likely to be announced by Michael Heseltine within weeks.

Ministerial sources indicated yesterday that they believe they have the support of Conservative backbenchers for a privatisation that Margaret Thatcher vetoed in the 1980s for fear of upsetting the Queen because of the historic links between the monarchy and the Royal Mail.

However, Robert Adley, the Tory chairman of the all-party Commons transport committee, is known to be opposed to the plan.

The proposals, drawn up by Mr Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, and Edward Leigh, his junior minister, will be submitted to the cabinet's economic and domestic policy committee. Mr Heseltine could be in a position to make a statement in the Commons by early May.



Leigh: helped to draft privatisation plan

Selling off the Post Office would be one of the most controversial privatisations since the Tories came to power in 1979. Ministers moved yesterday to allay possible public concern by insisting that a sell-off would not disadvantage Post Office users. Under the privatisation plans, they said, the Queen's head would remain on postage stamps and about the only long-term change envisaged would be a fall in prices as postal deliveries were opened up to competition.

The nationwide delivery service to every address, no matter how remote, would be maintained and the country-wide network of sub-post offices would be safeguarded. The business would be supervised by an independent regulator with powers to control prices and to set and monitor standards of performance.

Labour deadlocked on electoral reform

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

LABOUR'S two-year enquiry into electoral reform has reached deadlock, with MPs still split on whether to change the system for the Commons. Although the Plant committee was expected to reach a final decision at a meeting tomorrow night, some members are now pressing for more time to make up their minds. At least one more meeting is now expected to be held before the national executive at the end of next month to agree to a final report.

Committee members were yesterday circulated with Lord Plant's draft report of about 200 pages which gives a detailed critique of the two favoured alternatives for reform for the Commons — the additional member system and the supplementary vote system — and the current first past the post scheme. The draft report does not make any recommendations, merely listing the pros and cons of each method. The paper also proposes a regional list system for the House of Lords and the same alternatives, except the first past the post, for European elections as the Commons.

While backing reform in the Lords and in Europe, the committee is divided on whether to reform the present first past the post system in the Commons and, if so, what method to adopt.

Lord Plant favours reform and would like the final report to make a clear recommendation but several members, including the party's deputy leader, Margaret Beckett, have been urging the committee to present options rather than firm recommendations. This would give John Smith, who is not an ardent enthusiast for reform, a much freer hand when he makes his views clear at the NEC next month. Mr Smith is however determined that the issue of electoral reform will be decided at the party conference in September.

MPs were yesterday backing off a confrontation tomorrow night by complaining that they have not had enough time to study a draft report prepared by Lord Plant on the options for change. Others were trying to cover up the split within the party by insisting that Lord Plant's final report would be acceptable both to the committee and the Labour party. Graham Allen, Labour's spokesman on the constitution, also tried to pre-empt a further delay by issuing a statement saying he was "confident and optimistic that the final meeting of the Plant committee on electoral systems will produce a package of measures". However, he hinted that the final report was likely to be inconclusive by adding: "After two years of meetings the committee does not pretend to have found some electoral systems 'holy grail'."

MPs denied weekend reports that the committee would have to produce a minority and majority report. It is possible that in the end Lord Plant will have to accept Margaret Beckett's argument and make a separate statement about his own position. Sources close to the leadership were last night trying to play down the significance of Lord Plant's opinion.

Under the additional member system — the only proportional scheme being considered — most MPs would be elected by first past the post and the remainder made up from a list according to the proportion of votes cast in given areas. Jeff Rooker, an ardent campaigner for electoral reform, has proposed an AMS system where 150 out of 650 MPs would be elected on a regional list basis which is said to have Lord Plant's backing. A number of committee members now appear to favour the supplementary vote, a preferential scheme which requires a majority vote. Under the scheme, the electorate would state their votes in order of preference. If no one secured 50 per cent of the vote outright votes of all but the first two would be shared between the two leaders.

Tunnel route threatens future of Waterloo

By Bill Frost

THE long-term future of British Rail's £130 million international terminal at Waterloo station in London looks increasingly uncertain since the bulk of Channel tunnel passengers are now expected to use either King's Cross or St Pancras.

Last week's government decision finalising the route of trains into London from the east when the rail link is built leaves Waterloo out on a limb, one BR source admitted. "The majority of people will prefer to use whichever of the two north London stations is chosen as the site for the new terminal."

The Waterloo development, due to be completed this summer, was given the go-ahead when planners believed that the high speed link from the tunnel would approach London from the south. The new route — to the east — could transform the much-praised project into something of a white elephant within six years when the chosen north London terminal is ready for passengers.

European Passenger Services, the BR subsidiary responsible for running the proposed high-speed line linking London, Paris and Brussels, yesterday defended the Waterloo terminal. Jim Rowe of EPS said: "I would see a long future for Waterloo. Many people living in the South-East will find the station a great deal more convenient than either King's Cross or St Pancras."

Mr Rowe pointed out that trains using the high-speed link would be able to reach Waterloo by leaving the line near Gravesend in Kent and joining Network SouthEast tracks. Travelling time to Waterloo would only be minutes longer than to King's Cross or St Pancras.

The high-speed service linking London, Paris and Brussels is due to begin operations in the summer of next year, Mr Rowe said. "The new north London terminal will not be ready for passengers for a further six years. During that time regular users may well have decided that Waterloo is far more convenient for them."

Leading article, page 17

Reprieve for navy helicopter carrier

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

A £170 million helicopter carrier for the Royal Navy has been removed from a hit list of equipment projects to be cancelled. An order is to be placed later this year. The decision by ministers followed an intense debate in the Ministry of Defence over which projects to abandon to cut more than £1 billion off the budget over the next two years.

A list of equipment, including the proposed helicopter carrier, was put before ministers last month. Yesterday, Jonathan Aitken, the defence procurement minister, said in a written Commons answer that the vessel would remain in the defence programme and tenders had been invited to build the ship. Swan Hunter, the Tyneside yard, has said its future depends on winning the contract.

The decision to reprieve the ship, designed to launch 12 helicopters and 200 Royal Marines in a rapid-landing assault, was supported by the service chiefs. Before he retired as Chief of Naval Staff and First Sea Lord earlier this month, Admiral Sir Julian Oswald made it clear that he opposed the scrapping of the helicopter carrier.

Navy sources said yesterday that the ship had only been saved for another year. The issue would return next year when the annual long-term costings were carried out.

The reprieve means that the navy's four new Upholder class diesel-powered submarines are likely to be the main victims of the cuts. They could be sold or mothballed.

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Bath tries to clean up the great unwashed

CHRIS HARRIS





Bath's dilemma: professional entertainers such as Andy Phillips, left, are more than welcome on the city's streets, but hordes of begging "crusties" such as Gaz, right, infuriate the locals and frighten off the tourists

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY

BATH, the graceful Georgian resort of Jane Austen and Richard Brinsley Sheridan, has been forced to confront the darker side of modern urban life: street beggars. Renowned for the beauty and harmony of its urban planning and architecture, Bath is plagued by hundreds of young people, some of them as spectacularly filthy as their surroundings are elegant, demanding money from passersby.

The city, like many other places, has a population of homeless men and women who have fallen on hard times. Bath, however, because of its location at the centre of the New Age traveller trail, between Stonehenge and Glastonbury, has also attracted a dropout sub-sect called "the crusties", whose speciality is deliberate personal squalor. Both groups beg and, according to police estimates, they total anything up to 200 people. Their coexistence highlights Bath's dilemma. Is begging to be excused?

■ Young beggars are harassing tourists and residents alike. Bath has decided to act

Many citizens sympathise with the genuine homeless, but the crusties and their activities reduce others to rage. It is not difficult to see why. To behold England's most harmonious squares and crescents as the backdrop for England's most deliberately dirty people is a spectacle that would have made Beau Nash choke under his starched cravat. The crusties live in squats, are often drunk on their favourite strong lager or cider and lead skinny dogs on the end of a piece of string. They are infested, according to the police, with lice and fleas, and publicly proclaim their refusal to wash for months on end.

However, it is their begging from the citizens and the two million foreign tourists who flock to Bath annually that causes most concern. Barry McCrae, the head of Bath tourism, has called for beggars and vagrants to be cleared from the streets; a poll in the *Bath Evening Chronicle* last year found more than 90 per cent of respondents in favour. As a result, new day and night facilities for the homeless will open in the city centre today at a cost of £350,000.

"The crusties completely sour the atmosphere of the city," said Andy Phillips, a professional musician who dresses in 18th century costume to busk Telemann and Handel on his treble recorder. "Look now: people are relaxed and enjoying themselves. But if you get a group of 10 or 12 crusties hanging around, starting to drink and shouting, people are afraid to stop. I've seen it time and time again."

Fifty yards away is the other face of busking in Bath: a man slumped next to the Pump Room colonnade, playing the tin whistle. A tattoo on his face proclaims Gaz is obviously a crusty; or is he? In conversation he turns out to be a 23-year-old from Hull who wanted to be a graphic designer, but became an alcoholic and drug addict after he lost his girl friend and daughter.

The difficulty of separating those who have genuinely fallen destitute from those who are sticking up two vicious fingers to the city they have chosen to inhabit is at the heart of the begging problem in Bath, as in London and elsewhere.

£200,000 case of 12 parking tickets

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

POLICE and the Crown Prosecution Service have spent up to £200,000 in a lengthy crown court trial brought over non-payment of 12 parking tickets worth £144.

Nicholas Adams, 37, from Warminster, Wiltshire, found himself on trial on 12 charges of perverting the course of justice after police were unable to pinpoint which of his employees had incurred parking tickets. He is challenging his conviction today in the Court of Appeal and says he found himself at the centre of a "Kafkaesque nightmare" that ended in conviction on 11 charges and a sentence of 180 hours of community service.

The episode has spanned more than three years, beginning with extensive police investigations into the parking tickets. In June 1990, he was sent for trial by Warminster magistrates and the case at Swindon Crown Court in May 1991 lasted two and a half weeks, with 20 witnesses called.

Charles Goodbody, his solicitor, said: "At a guess, the trial of this case alone has cost the taxpayer more than £100,000. The prosecution employed leading and junior counsel, we had junior counsel, and Mr Adams is on legal aid. Guilty or not guilty, and obviously I cannot comment on the case itself, one surely has to question whether public funds are being used in the most appropriate way when cases such as this are pursued to such lengths."

A spokesman for the Crown Prosecution Service said it could not comment while the case was pending.

Watchdog demands ban on new quarries

BY JOHN YOUNG

THE government should impose an immediate moratorium on planning consents for quarrying and sand and gravel extraction, the Council for the Protection of Rural England said yesterday. It believes that oversupply means that no further quarrying is needed for at least 20 years.

Ben Plowden, the council's minerals campaigner, said that quarries already given planning permission could meet the estimated requirement of 3,000 million tonnes between now and 2011, and still have 20 years' supply left.

Mr Plowden told a conference in London that the stock of sand and gravel was 80 per cent more than the latest government-estimated requirements. In some parts of the country, no new pits would be needed for at least six years.

If the government was serious about reducing the amount of countryside dug up for minerals, it must support councils that rejected planning applications, he told the conference, organised by the Sand and Gravel Association. The onus must be on developers to prove there was a need that could not be met from existing permissions, he said.

"Given the huge environmental costs of quarrying, the oversupply of permitted reserves requires radical action," he said.

Bryan Frost, the association's chairman, conceded that "a very large volume" of extractions had received planning consent, but supplies were often not near markets.

In a guidance note published last January, the government indicated that production should be concentrated on so-called superquarries in Scotland, Norway and Spain, leaving quarries in England and Wales to be run down and closed. That would cause chaos in the short-term, Mr Frost said.

National campaign to put babies on backs halves cot death rate

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

COT deaths were more than halved in the first nine months of last year after a national campaign urged parents to put their babies to sleep on their backs.

The fall was yesterday welcomed by specialists who said that the campaign could have similar beneficial effects on other childhood ailments, such as asthma. Cot deaths and asthma rates rose sharply in the 1970s and 1980s for reasons that are so far unexplained and their causes could be linked.

Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, told a conference in London yesterday that the fall from 723 cot deaths in England and Wales between January and September, 1991, to 326 deaths in the same period in 1992 was "a perfect example of what can be achieved" by the government's Health of the Nation strategy.

The fall in deaths is attributed to a £2 million television campaign, launched in December 1991 by the health department, and an earlier campaign by the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths. As well as advising on sleeping position, the campaigns warned parents of the dangers of wrapping babies up tightly, so that they become too hot, and of smoking in pregnancy and after giving birth.

Mrs Bottomley rejected suggestions that the government had been slow to act after campaigns in New Zealand and Holland had produced similar results. She said on BBC Radio 4 that good scientific evidence for the change had not been available sooner.

Specialists confirmed that the proposal that babies would be safer if put to sleep on their backs had proved controversial among doctors who feared that more would die from choking. It also ran counter to longstanding evidence that showed premature babies did better when laid to sleep on their tummies.

Specialists now believe that professional advice issued in the early 1970s to care for premature babies in the prone position was extended, without good evidence, to all normal babies. Joyce Epstein, director of the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths, said: "Giving advice before it is scientifically tested can be disastrous."

Professor Jean Golding of the Institute of Child Health in Bristol said that the campaigns in Holland and New Zealand, where the cot death rate was four times higher than Britain, had been launched on unconvincing evidence.

Firm evidence of the effectiveness of putting babies to sleep on their backs did not become available in Britain until preliminary results of a study in Avon were published in June 1991. The full results became available in September and the government launched its campaign in December. "To act in three months on unpublished data is not bad," said Dr Peter Fleming, an expert on cot deaths and one of the authors of the study.

In Avon, where a local campaign had been run since 1990, the results had been "astounding". There had been no cot deaths in the area in the past 13 months, compared with an annual average of 50 in the late 1980s.

Delay criticised, page 15
Leading article, page 17

Everest by hormones

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

MALE doctors on an expedition to Everest are to dose themselves with female hormones in an effort to ward off mountain sickness.

They will test the theory that, when climbing mountains, the best thing a man can do is be more like a woman; the female hormone progesterone appears to adapt the body to thin air by increasing breathing rate.

The 24-strong team, members of Birmingham's Medical Research Expeditionary Society, have already started taking the tablets before their departure at the weekend. Some are taking progesterone, while others are on Diamox, a drug that is known to have some effects against mountain sickness. They are not attempting to climb Everest, but will be trekking at a height of 20,000ft, high enough to bring on the sickness.

One of the team, Dr Timothy Harvey, who is based at Manor Hospital, Walsall, said: "We have all started taking tablets this week, but we haven't been told which they are. On this expedition the amount of progesterone given will be about 50 times greater than that found in the contraceptive pill, which is a pretty substantial dosage." No long-term effects are expected.

Progesterone is known to aid breathing and is given to babies with respiratory problems. Dr Harvey said it was hoped that the hormone would help in the thinner atmosphere of high altitudes.

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Cross-Channel wine run hits off-licences

BY ROBIN YOUNG

OFF-LICENCES fear the flow of illegally imported tobacco and alcohol from the Continent offered for resale in Britain will sweep them out of business. Wine that has been subject to British excise duty and VAT suffers a price disadvantage of at least £1.20 a bottle against the price of personal imports from France.

Richard Harvey, a Dorset wine merchant, might open a shop in Cherbourg to offset the price disadvantage. "There are really no limits to the amount people can bring across the Channel. Customs guidelines allow ten cases of wine, two cases of fortified wine, a case of spirits and 14 cases of beer per person, but you only have to convince them it is for a party or a wedding and you can bring even more." He said resale of the goods was inevitable.

Robin Page, of Page and Sons in Ramsgate, Kent, said: "The advent of the single market probably governed our thinking when we decided to withdraw from retail trade, and to concentrate on wine wholesaleing."

In January, arrests and threats of prosecution made by a new Customs and Excise department, the excise verification officers, against people illegally selling drink or tobacco nominally imported for personal consumption, were running at one a day. There were 74 cases last month.

One British wine importer with trade sources in France estimated that the extra amount of wine sold in the Calais area since the introduction of the new personal allowances amounted to at least six lorry loads.

"We believe that we have 40 or 50 fewer customers a week since the new rules came in," Chris Becket, of The Bottleneck in Broadstairs, Kent, said. "We have heard of a man collecting orders and selling on stuff on a regular basis near Canterbury cathedral."

A Customs spokesman said: "For the most part, they are just opportunists trying to make a quick profit, but traders should be aware that we have powers of both arrest and seizure and will not hesitate to prosecute large-scale or professional offenders."

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'Cohabitation' begins in Paris as triumphant right takes office and Socialists lick their wounds

France starts new era with departure of Bérégovoy

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

FRANCE entered a new phase of "cohabitation" between President Mitterrand and a conservative government yesterday after the near electoral annihilation of the Socialist party and the resignation of Pierre Bérégovoy as prime minister.

Last night, M Mitterrand appointed Edouard Balladur, a Gaullist, as the head of a government that will reflect the crushing 80 per cent of parliamentary seats won by the Gaullist RPR and centre-right UDF groups in the two-round elections that ended on Sunday. M Bérégovoy visited the Elysée Palace to hand in his resignation yesterday morning, soon after the final results showed that the conservative parties had scored the biggest majority of the Fifth Republic and, by some measures, the greatest parliamentary victory since 1815.

The RPR took 242 seats and the UDF 206. Together with allies, that gave them 485 seats in the 577-member house. The Socialists lost all but 67 of their 282 seats. The Communist party, which remains strong in its bastions, kept 25 of its 27 seats. The multiplying effect of the two-round system meant that the far-right National Front and the two ecology parties won no seats despite taking nearly 20 per cent of the first-round vote.

As Socialist leaders, many of whom had lost their seats, wallowed in mutual recriminations yesterday, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the UDF leader, said he supported the nomination of M Balladur, designated by Jacques Chirac as the Gaullist candidate to head the government. M Chirac now becomes the power behind the government, and will be campaigning for the presidential elections that are due by May 1995. Despite M Chirac's pledges of tolerance and moderation, there are strong prospects of open warfare between a president who is leader of his own opposition and a government hampered from the outset by the imperatives of a new electoral campaign. Unlike the cohabitation of 1986-8, when M Chirac served as prime minister and was outmanoeuvred by M Mitterrand, the president this time has little freedom to move.

The Balladur government is expected to move quickly to reinforce confidence in the franc, stimulate employment and tighten up on immigration and crime. It is likely to clamp down on "family reunification" for immigrant workers and launch police operations against illegal immigrants. Laws making it harder for children of immigrants to obtain citizenship are expected.

Confrontation with other European states will be on the cards if the Gaullists carry through their pledges to scrap the new common agricultural policy and veto the farm trade agreement between the European Community and the United States.

M Balladur, 63, says it will take five years to turn round the economy and his government will be hampered by the depressed international climate. The lack of euphoria among the Gaullists and UDF reflects those sentiments and an awareness that they won a historic majority from only 40 per cent of the vote. "This result is both immense and ambiguous," Philippe Séguin, the Gaullist dissident, said. The newspaper *Le Quotidien de Paris*, a fierce supporter of the right, said: "It is true that there was no wild enthusiasm, no extraordinary rallying behind our ideas. The country does not have too many illusions." Exit polls confirmed that voters were pessimistic and had few hopes that the conservatives would do any better than the Socialists. There was near consensus, however, on the cause of the electoral massacre inflicted on the Socialists. Overwhelmingly, the Socialists' failure to curb the remorseless rise of unemployment was the main reason given, followed by the Socialists' betrayal of their proclaimed ideals through the long series of scandals.

Writing the Socialists' epitaph yesterday, the left-wing newspaper *Libération* said the government might have survived its record on unemployment alone. Its downfall had been sealed by "les affaires [the scandals], the obscene display of easy money and the political impunity of offending ministers," it said. "The left was duty-bound to govern differently. It failed."

The only consolation for the Socialists is the almost certain prospect of divisions among the governing allies. Differences abound, not just between the centrist, pro-European UDF and the Gaullists, but also on each side. The Gaullists, although committed to European unity, include a share of heavyweight campaigners against the Maastricht treaty, such as M Séguin and Charles Pasqua. Tension is also inevitable between M Balladur and M Chirac, given their conflicting roles. M Balladur must convince the country that he is running an efficient government, while M Chirac is intent on goading M Mitterrand into resignation before the Gaullists' credit is worn down by its time in office.

Rivalries have already burst into the open among the UDF, which is a loose grouping at best, with several centre-party leaders, among them Pierre Méhaignerie and François Léotard looking to build their own parliamentary power bases.

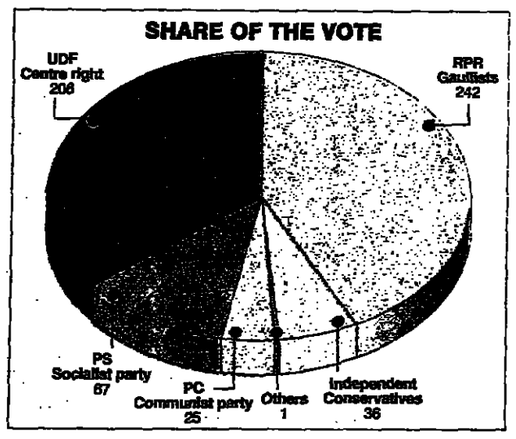
The biggest loser on the right, according to *Le Monde*, was M Giscard d'Estaing. Fifteen years after creating the UDF he had still failed to turn the movement into more than an adjunct to Gaullist power. The failure bodes ill for M Giscard d'Estaing's chances of defeating M Chirac in the presidential race.



Pack up your troubles: workers removing documents of the defeated Socialist government from the Hôtel Matignon in Paris, the official residence of the prime minister



Bérégovoy: visited Elysée to resign



Devastated left looks to Delors

BY CHARLES BREMNER

Surveying the debris of their once-mighty party, French Socialists faced up to a bitter reality yesterday: even if their cause has not been consigned to the history books, their defeat was so devastating that it could take decades for the left to climb back to power.

In their misery, the Socialists are aware that not one of their leaders survived unwounded from the massacre of the party that President Mitterrand built in the 1970s and took to the Elysée Palace in 1981. But, as leaders talked with little conviction yesterday of starting work on a renaissance, the name of one potential saviour was doing the rounds, that of Jacques Delors.

The president of the European Commission, a former Socialist minister, kept a prudent distance from the long-anticipated electoral debacle. He was last spotted on the political landscape last autumn when he founded Witness, a club affiliated to the Socialists, and laid the foundations for an attempt to succeed M Mitterrand in 1995.

The electoral experience of M Delors, 67, has been limited to a brief term as a mayor and as a deputy in the European parliament and many pundits doubt that he has the killer instinct needed for presidential battle. But such is the vacuum on the left with the defeat of Michel Rocard on Sunday that he is being tipped as the only Socialist "*presidentiable*" for 1995. Bernard Kouchner, the humanitarian action minister, said on television on Sunday night that M Delors was the man to create a new left-wing movement after "the knockout of the Socialists". Dr Kouchner is one of a group of popular younger politicians of the left who have backed M Delors.

Others include Martine Aubry, his daughter and labour minister in the Bérégovoy government, and Segolène Royal, the glamorous environment minister who emerged during the campaign as the *Pasionaria* of the Socialists.

Six of the younger outgoing ministers, including Mme Aubry and Dr Kouchner, issued a call yesterday for the resurrection of the left. "Yesterday France passed a harsh sentence on the left," their statement said, "but nevertheless, the country needs a left, needs its ideals, its values."

The call was also signed by Frédérique Bredin, the sports minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the trade minister, Michel Vauzelle, the justice minister, all of whom lost their seats.

Yesterday *Le Figaro* used the headline: "The Socialist Party — Waiting for Delors" over its story of the rout of the left. M Mitterrand, said to be drawing much solace from the humiliation of his arch-rival M Rocard, is said to favour M Delors as a successor.

Man in the news

British style with a touch of French class

BY CHARLES BREMNER

ONE adjective crops up nearly every time the French try to describe Edouard Balladur, the Gaullist mandarin who was last night named as prime minister at the head of the new conservative government. He is, they say, *très Britannique*.

By origin, M Balladur, the alter ego of his mentor Jacques Chirac, has not a gram of British blood. Born in Smyrna, the descendant of a line of Franco-Ottoman bankers and schooled with the cream of the French ruling class, he is the perfect continental technocrat. He does profess admiration for some things British, such as the independent civil service, and he favours a move away from the Franco-German axis towards rapprochement with the Americans, but the British tag refers to his style. This verges on a French caricature of Englishness: an air of quiet superiority and a love of understatement, old-world manners, Savile Row suits and good cigars.

The celebrated Balladur reserve has earned him a string of nicknames, including viceroy, bishop and *Sa Suffisance*" (His Complacency), the title bestowed on him by *Le Canard Enchaîné*, the satirical magazine. But it has proved a key ingredient in a climb to high office that began when, as a young civil servant, he entered the office of Georges Pompidou, the prime minister, in 1963. The model of quiet competence, M Balladur, 63, has seemingly placed political ambition second to his desire to achieve power through service to others.

If any qualification guaranteed him his stewardship of the Hôtel Matignon, the prime minister's residence, it is his assurance that he will not try to use the job as a launching pad to the presidency. Only a fool would want the job, he implied, in a 280-page political manifesto which he published last year.

The symbiotic relation between the impetuous, hot-tempered M Chirac, the Gaullist leader, and the ultra-prudent M Balladur, is one of the oddest phenomena of the French political hot-house. M Balladur, who was trained, like M Chirac, at the Ecole Nationale de l'Administration, has served as the Gaullist leader's ideas man, giving the spontaneous and unreflective M Chirac the intellectual framework vital to leading a French party. In 1986, it was M Balladur who devised the formula for peaceful "cohabitation" between president and a government of the opposite camp.

As M Balladur ascends with characteristic self-effacement to the prime minister's office, many are prepared to bet that power may get the better of his loyalty to the Gaullist leader. Their interests are suddenly divergent. For M Balladur, the incentive will be to stay in office for the full two years to the next presidential election to see through a programme which he sees as long term.

Silver-haired, eagle-nosed and slightly plump, the inscrutable M Balladur delights in doing everything the opposite of a campaigning politician. He talks in long-winded sentences laden with subjunctives and as far from a sound bite as imaginable. "Now is not the time for lyrical rhetoric or fierce insults," he told one hall this month to massive applause. "People want seriousness and precision. I am not a pessimist. I just want to encourage reasonable hope." Asked if he had not thought of livening up his personality since he ran for parliament, and won his seat, in 1988, M Balladur says: "I'm not going to start jogging or singing songs so I can communicate better. I detest play-acting. Given our country's serious problems, we need serious leaders."



Balladur yesterday: perfect technocrat

Brittan offers US trade compromise

FROM GEORGE BROCK AND TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

SIR Leon Brittan, the European Community foreign trade commissioner, yesterday presented Mickey Kantor, his American counterpart, with proposals to resolve the dispute over public service contracts and for the stalled world trade talks in Geneva.

The offers amount to fresh concessions by the EC. Mr Kantor said the offer was "constructive but not obviously acceptable". He agreed that no American sanctions would be imposed on EC businesses until further talks in three weeks time.

Sir Leon said the EC would not use Article 29 of its public purchasing directive, which favours European companies and has been the principal target of Mr Kantor's attack, until the talks. Mr Kantor later claimed that the Community had agreed "to begin the process of revoking Article 29", but admitted the EC was not irrevocably committed to abolish the clause unless an overall settlement was reached. Sir Leon said: "There is no question of unilateral action on our part and I have announced no such action."

In practice, several EC governments, led by France, would block any abandonment of Article 29. Mr Kantor said he was "neither optimistic nor pessimistic" about the outcome. "We may end up with Article 29 in force and sanctions invoked by the US."

The negotiators also discussed the transatlantic disputes over subsidies in the civil aviation and steel industries, and the danger of a new French government unravelling the EC-US accord on oilseeds. If the French do revoke this agreement the round of world trade talks under Gatt could collapse. Sir Leon said he was "confident we can still secure a better deal for the world", while Mr Kantor said the oilseeds accord should be implemented as soon as possible.

Sir Leon again asked Mr Kantor for details of how Boeing and McDonnell Douglas finance development of their new generations of aircraft. The European Commission, suspicious of cross-subsidies, has demanded how $1 billion (£680 million) of research and development money is spent annually by Nasa, the space agency.

Seven hurt in Aswan bombing

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

ASWAN, the once sleepy Nile winter resort favoured by British tourists, had been transformed yesterday after three bombs injured six civilians and one policeman. The attack was launched on Sunday night. By noon yesterday, police had rounded up 45 Muslim suspects. A spokesman claimed that none of the few tourists who still go to the town, 534 miles south of Cairo, were hurt.

The bombs exploded under a police car, in a crowded square and near a government building. They were assumed to be the start of threatened revenge by members of the militant Islamic Group for a police raid on an Aswan mosque this month, in which eight extremists were killed.

☐ **Briton attacked:** Alan Forester, an English teacher living in Cairo, was shot with a speargun in the street, security sources said yesterday. Doctors at the Qasr al-Aini hospital said he was treated for minor neck wounds. *(Reuter)*

Letters, page 17

Incumbent tipped to win Jamaica election

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

PERCIVAL "P.J." Patterson, Jamaica's incumbent prime minister, looks set to win today's general election for the ruling People's National Party (PNP), a year to the day after Michael Manley resigned from office on health grounds.

Jamaica's seventh national election since independence from Britain in 1962, promises to mark a watershed in the island's politics. Absent this year is the political violence and ideological passion of past elections when notorious "garrison constituencies" in Kingston, run by gunmen from the PNP and the rival Jamaica Labour Party (JLP), erupted in violence, with 750 killings in 1980.

For the first time since universal suffrage was introduced in 1944, the PNP goes to the polls without a Manley — Michael or his father Norman — as candidate. This could also be the last time that 62-year-old Edward Seaga, the former prime minister and current JLP opposition leader, leads his party into a general election.

Despite presiding over a period of economic instability, which since 1989 has seen the Jamaican dollar fall sharply against the US currency, the PNP has consistently led in the pre-election polls by 7 to 10 per cent.

"Have Mercy Percy," is Mr Seaga's campaign cry as he rails against the PNP's economic performance. Mr Patterson, dubbed the "Fresh Prince" by his party, says the worst is over and predicts new economic growth, citing figures for inflation which has come down from 87 per cent in 1991, but is still hovering around 34 per cent.

Mr Seaga, who has been dubbed "Old Man River" for the elections, has looked tired and dispirited, perhaps by his inability to come up with new policies. Unlike the 1976 and 1980 elections when Mr Manley was heading Jamaica down a socialist path and Mr Seaga called for capitalist deliverance, the ideological divide between the parties is small.

Instead it has become a question of style and personalities. Race is also a factor as Mr Patterson is black and Mr Seaga is white, of mixed Jamaican-Lebanese blood. The campaign has not inspired the same devotion as past Manley-Seaga.

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Intemperate deputies develop their appetite for strife



Khasbulatov: one-third of deputies voted to dismiss him as chairman

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

■ Boris Yeltsin has won at least a temporary reprieve. Ruslan Khasbulatov, however, having shown congress how to turn on its masters, finds it turning on him

AMID the intemperate fury of the Congress of People's Deputies, one speech stood out. The chamber was a babble of contention about another attempt to dismiss Ruslan Khasbulatov, the chairman, for trying to patch together a compromise with President Yeltsin. A little-known democrat patiently waited his turn, took the microphone and said simply: "This congress should be declared clinically insane. It doesn't need a new chairman, it needs a psychiatrist."

Russia's body politic, never the healthiest of organisms, is set on a course of auto-destruction. The clash of ideas about reform and power which caused the first run-ins between congress and the government has been replaced by wild aggression sprayed across any target.

So perverse has the gathering become that it passed a motion explicitly rejecting any attempt to clarify the division of powers between the legislature and the executive, thus going on the record as preferring continuation of strife to its resolution. Madness is in the air. On Sunday night, hardliners outside the Kremlin tore apart an effigy of Mr Yeltsin and sang the second world war song : "Huge country rise! Prepare for battle unto death!" This time, the country they are promising to wage war on is their own.

The main shifts of the last days have been the growth of antagonism towards Mr Khasbulatov inside the congress and a surge of support for Mr Yeltsin outside it. The failure of the vote to oust Mr Yeltsin, by a sizeable if not comfortable 72 votes, should give him a breathing space. The strength of the demonstrations in his favour at the weekend will encourage him to press on with the April referendum, especially if he receives a fillip at the summit with President Clinton next week.

His coming so close to impeachment has jolted many Russians out of their apathy; for the first time since the attempted coup of August 1991, people are concerned about politics. On Sunday night they waited anxiously for the result of the vote realising that a "yes" to impeachment would have terrible and unpredictable consequences. Afterwards the telephone lines were overburdened with people phoning friends and family to share their relief.

The attempt to have Mr Khasbulatov removed failed by an even clearer margin, but a third of the chamber voted against him and he should know better than anyone that the subject of dismissal, once raised in Russian politics, has a nasty tendency of recurring. He must now feel an unwelcome empathy with Mr Yeltsin.

Yesterday his sovereign cockiness deserted him. Pasty and stuttering, he directed the proceedings with his exhausted gaze fixed in the middle distance. Not that congress permitted much direction. This was a tribal dance of savages pausing only to demand fresh human sacrifices.

The hardline deputy Aleksandr Golishnikov staggered theatrically to the rostrum with a bandage round his head and claimed that he had been injured in Sunday's pro-Yeltsin demonstration outside the Kremlin. The presence of the interior minister and the mayor of Moscow was demanded and congress decided that if they did not appear within an hour they would be sacked.

The assembly's latest pastime is passing any resolution they fancy with insouciant disregard for whether they are entitled do so or not, even according to the terms of their beloved constitution. Mr Khasbulatov, intent on re-ingratiating himself with the hardliners, called for a "tough decision" against Viktor Yerin, the interior minister and Viktor Chernomyrdin, the prime minister.

The deputies, however, have learned under Mr Khasbulatov's tutelage how to flex their muscles and had no hesitation in beating him, their master. Congress is no longer in the mood for compromise. It prefers the prospect of a battle unto death.



Yeltsin: opposition failure to impeach gives the president a breathing space

Khasbulatov changes tack to intimidate Yeltsin allies

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

RUSLAN Khasbulatov, the Russian parliamentary chairman, last night launched a fierce attack on the cabinet of Viktor Chernomyrdin, the prime minister. He particularly criticised the three so-called "power ministers" — those of defence, security and the interior.

Coupled with moves by the Russian parliament to dismiss pro-Yeltsin officials, his attack seemed designed to intimidate the ministers and force them to withdraw their support from President Yeltsin.

Accusing the ministers of having allowed an "illegal" pro-Yeltsin demonstration outside the Kremlin on Sunday, at which participants alegedly called for revolt, Mr Khasbulatov demanded: "What was Chernomyrdin doing on March 28? Has the security minister become Yeltsin's lieutenant?"

Conservative deputies whipped themselves into a state of excitement over an alleged attack on one of their number. Aleksandr Golishnikov, who appeared heavily bandaged and said that he had been hit on the head with a bag by a pro-Yeltsin demonstrator. The congress called in General Viktor Yerin, the interior minister, and Yuri Luzhkov, the mayor of Moscow, and cross-examined them. The permanent parliament, the Supreme Soviet, was ordered to set up a commission to investigate the incident and the holding of the pro-Yeltsin rally.

A weakness of both sides in the power struggle is that they have stolen each other's clothes and are forced to adopt positions they do not hold. The Yeltsin democrats find themselves appealing to the people in terms of the need for a "strong leader". The president's opponents, communists and Russian nationalists united by authoritarianism and neo-imperialism, have to appeal to the masses in the name of the defence of parliamentary democracy against a "new totalitarian dictatorship".

Because respect for strong authority is ingrained in the Russian tradition, Mr Yeltsin's supporters appear to have the edge in the people's sympathies. A taxi driver told me that he supported Mr Yeltsin because "he is like Lenin and Stalin, a man who can stop people talking and make them get to work: not like that brothel of a parliament". On the other side, some of the conservative leaders can talk glibly enough about democracy, although their concept of it is sometimes inexact.

Oleg Grachev, a leader of the Russian Renaissance party, told me that "Russia should have a parliamentary government like that of America in which the president should be a symbolic figure, like the Queen of England". A talk with some of their supporters at demonstrations however gives a different impression. In recent days, calls for Mr Yeltsin and his supporters to be shot or hanged have become increasingly frequent. At the anti-Yeltsin demonstration yesterday the crowd chanted: "Yeltsin-suitcase-station-Israel". Anti-semitic language of the foulest kind is commonplace.

The irony of the present situation is summed up in the figure of Mr Khasbulatov. None of the communists nor the nationalists even pretends to have any time for this man, whether because he comes from the hated Chechen minority or because he reached his present position by supporting Mr Yeltsin.

During the congress, a group of Western correspondents discussed whether, should the extreme anti-Yeltsin forces come to power, Mr Khasbulatov would remain in his job for five days or five minutes.

Mr Grachev said: "Not one person in this demonstration would be for Khasbulatov. He is a purely temporary figure, a mouthpiece to pass on our demands for the dismissal of Yeltsin." Mr Khasbulatov's position depends in a strange way on Mr Yeltsin remaining president.

YELTSIN SUPPORTERS RIDING HIGH IN RED SQUARE



Victory parade: jubilant pro-Yeltsin demonstrators are carried past the Kremlin in Moscow's Red Square yesterday after the Congress of People's Deputies failed to carry a motion to impeach the president. The motion was proposed by hardliners who oppose reforms

Grachev assures Nato of army's neutrality

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

RUSSIA'S army would act as a "guarantor of stability" by staying out of the political battle between President Yeltsin and the Congress of People's Deputies, General Pavel Grachev, the defence minister, told Nato defence ministers in Brussels yesterday.

General Grachev was criticised by several ministers, including Malcolm Rifkind, of Britain, for announcing a "temporary" slowdown in the recall of Russian soldiers stationed in the Baltic republics. Russia's generals have long complained that the withdrawal is aggravating discontent in the army, which cannot find enough houses for soldiers returning from foreign bases that are being closed.

Manfred Wörner, Nato's secretary-general, said that he would support schemes by allied governments to help Moscow to build more housing for former servicemen. Bonn is already funding housing projects in Russia.

William Perry, the US deputy defence secretary, predicted that the US military in Europe would fall "to about 100,000 troops". Some European governments fear that President Clinton may want deeper cuts.

☐ **Reform supported:** Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia said yesterday they hoped Russia's political and economic reforms would continue. "This would have a positive impact on European security," the four defence ministers told the Nato meeting in Brussels. *(Reuter)*

Hurd wary of rule by decree

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT, AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

DOUGLAS Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, implicitly warned President Yeltsin yesterday not to resort to drastic measures in his power struggle with Russia's Congress of People's Deputies.

Although he renewed pledges of support for Mr Yeltsin's reforms, the Foreign Secretary said in Bonn that the Russian leader faced some difficult choices. "As he contemplates the possibilities of rule by presidential decree, he might, I suppose, believe that the ends justify the means," he said. "But I think that was the mistake made 70 years ago by the Communists."

Mr Hurd also pressed the European Community to broaden access to its markets for Russian goods and eventually create a free-trade area with Russia as a boost for Mr Yeltsin's reforms. As the Russian leader fought for his political life in Moscow, Mr Hurd praised him as the architect of a "courageous economic and democratic programme" that "deserves our full support". But Mr Hurd said that Western Europe urgently needed to give ordinary Russians a morale-booster if it wanted to stave off a tidal wave of poor migrants.

He told the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, a think-tank of Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union, that the Communist dream of society had inspired many good and clever people, but it had proved impossible in practice. "Of course, because the dream was impossible, it led quickly and inevitably to brutality and to tyranny," he added. "The means they adopted to reach their goal were repellent."

The Foreign Secretary, who will meet Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian foreign minister, during a stopover in Moscow on Friday, said he was not alarmed by the latest developments in what he called "a very Russian tussle".

"Each day brings its twists and turns and I think is not sensible to comment on each twist and turn because the next morning it looks different," he said. "We are interested in supporting Boris Yeltsin . . . It is because he believes in reform and is carrying it through, not perfectly but sincerely and consistently, that we should help him." The West should devise a full strategy of support for Russia's transformation to a market economy.

EUROPEAN BRIEF

Far-right youths 'not terrorists'

Bonn: A court has ruled that ten German right-wing extremists accused of firebombing hostels for immigrants could not be charged with forming a terrorist group, the federal prosecutor's office said yesterday.

The group, led by Michael Peters, one of two men accused of killing three Turks by arson in Mölln last November, did not fit the legal definition of a terrorist organisation, a statement said. "The group formed by the accused does not display the special organisational structure that would be necessary according to decisions of federal courts to prove it is a [terrorist] organisation." *(Reuter)*

Rising man

Kiev: Vasyl Yevtukhov, an industrialist who has led negotiations with Russia over energy supplies and repayment of Soviet foreign debt, was appointed second-in-command to Leonid Kuchma, Ukrainian prime minister. *(Reuter)*

Second chance

Brussels: King Baudouin gave Jean-Luc Dehaene, his prime minister, a second chance to conclude stalled budget talks and rescue Belgium's four-party coalition. Mr Dehaene offered to resign last week. *(Reuter)*

Minister quits

Copenhagen: Pia Gjellerup, the Danish justice minister, has resigned. Danish television alleged that the resignation was connected with the misuse of funds to finance a Social Democratic youth conference centre. *(AP)*

Muslim jailed

Athens: A Greek court sentenced Ismail Idovan, 25, a Muslim, to five years in prison after he was convicted of setting fire to a Greek flag at a Muslim school and another at a company in Morsini, in Thrace. *(Reuter)*

Convent catch

Toulouse: Police arrested Ange Luccarotti, 79, long known as "the grandfather of bank robbers", in connection with 37 recent robberies. Police thought M Luccarotti, who lives in a convent, had retired long ago. *(AFP)*

Ceasefire holds for second day

2,000 refugees reach safety

FROM JOEL BRAND IN TUZLA

A UN convoy of more than 2,000 refugees, weary after 11 months of siege in the eastern Bosnian community of Srebrenica, made the arduous journey to relative safety last night.

Rebel Serb troops spent hours meticulously checking all of the 19 lorries, each with more than 120 people on board. Sixty of the 2,346 people, mostly women and children, were reported to be seriously wounded and were being taken directly to Tuzla's already overflowing hospital.

The convoy was held up at a checkpoint near Srebrenica and local Serb fighters forced the British escort to cross into Bosnian-held territory without the convoy and then to return when it had been inspected. The lorries brought food and medicine to the besieged community on Sunday evening, unloaded yesterday morning, and set off with their human cargo for the Bosnian-held town of Tuzla near by.



Morillon: Srebrenica is his personal mission

General Philippe Morillon, the head of UN forces in Bosnia, has made saving Srebrenica his personal mission, but officials in Tuzla doubt that he will be able to hold off the rebel Serb forces for long.

The refugees made their escape as the longest truce of Bosnia's brutal year-long war held for a second day, and General Morillon expressed real hope that the ceasefire would last. He said he was hopeful because it was the first ceasefire to be agreed by all three sides and came at a time when Alija Izetbegovic, Bosnia's Muslim president, was seeking peace terms.

Late on Sunday, one French and one German plane joined US aircraft parachuting food into Bosnia, French and American military officials said yesterday.

Lyndall Sachs, a UNHCR spokesman in Belgrade, said that a new convoy was preparing to head to Srebrenica with more food and medicine. A helicopter evacuation of the sick and wounded was suspended last week after Serbs shelled the local landing ground.

Victor Andreyev, a UN official, said that Bosnian Serb authorities had arrested, at General Morillon's demand, a Serb army colonel who had ordered the shelling.

Tudjman appoints oil man to lead Croatia

FROM REUTER IN ZAGREB

PRESIDENT Tudjman of Croatia appointed Nikica Valentic, the head of the state-owned oil company INA, as prime minister yesterday after the government resigned. Hrvoje Sarinic, the outgoing leader, said the decision was made to conform to Croatia's constitutional law.

The move was expected after the regional polls in February to elect an upper house of parliament completed the elections to bodies of a new independent Croatia, Vesna Skare, the presidential spokesman, said.

Mr Sarinic's government had become increasingly unpopular over its handling of the economy and was criticised for power cuts crippling the Dalmatian coast, ordered last month for up to 12 hours a day. Inflation, at an annual rate of 2,300 per cent, is impoverishing most Croatians and some reports say many children are suffering from malnutrition.

Mr Valentic was expected to meet Dr Tudjman later yesterday to discuss the new administration, Ms Skare said. "A complete reorganisation of the government will now take place," she said. Some government ministries would be merged and the number of ministers reduced.

Ms Skare dismissed criticism of Mr Sarinic. She said he and his government had carried out their job well under tough conditions created by war-induced hyper-inflation, a mass influx of refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina and with a third of Croatian territory still occupied by Serbs. Yugoslav army intervention to stop Croatia's breaking away caused $20 billion (£13.5 billion) in economic damage and halved its gross domestic product.

Mr Sarinic said he and his government were prepared to serve in any new administration and thanked Dr Tudjman for his support. Only ten days ago, he scoffed at suggestions that he was about to resign.

Defiant Serbs say 'peace' map leaves them with a wasteland

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

BOSNIAN Serbs say that one of their main objections to the Owen-Vance peace plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina is that it gives most of the natural and industrial resources to the Muslims and Croats, leaving them with "the wasteland".

The Bosnian Serbs have signed two parts of the plan, but will not sign the map, which envisages the carving up of Bosnia into ten autonomous provinces most of which would be dominated by one or other of the republic's three warring peoples.

"The Vance-Owen plan is out of the question," Biljana Plavsic, a Bosnian Serb leader, said. "It's our land; 64 per cent of Bosnia-Herzegovina is our property." According to this, the standard Bosnian Serb position, the Serbs, who made up a third of the population before fighting began, are entitled to two-thirds of the land because they were overwhelmingly peasant farmers while the Muslims tended to live in towns. Western diplomats scoff at this argument as, in the words of one, "just one of a number of rationalisations to justify taking more and more".

About 70 per cent of Bosnia is under Serb control, but the Owen-Vance map envisages that ultimately they will control 43 per cent of the country. Now, however, the Serbs not only claim that they are entitled to more but also that the map deprives them of economic resources.

Serb leaders have made clear since fighting began that they want to push the Muslims into a small triangle of land bounded by the cities of Tuzla, Zenica and Sarajevo. That would make it easy for Serb-controlled parts to break off and join Serbia, and the Croat parts to join Croatia. Now the Serbs are claiming that the Owen-Vance map is unfair because, for example, 90 per cent of Bosnia's coal is in the industrial cities of Tuzla and Zenica. Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, claims that the whole of Sarajevo is built on Serb land.

Blagoje Komljenovic, of the Belgrade daily *Politika*, says that under the proposed map: "the Muslims would have 2,000 megawatts of the existing electric potential, the Croats 1,200, and the Serbs only 1,000". He adds that under the plan an aluminium plant at Zvornik with a bauxite mine at Vlasenica and the Visegrad hydroelectric plant will go to the Muslims. The Owen-Vance plan, Mr Komljenovic says, gives "the factories to the Muslims, electricity to the Croats and wasteland to the Serbs".

Another Bosnian Serb argument against the present map is that the territories under Serb control are split up and, above all, that there is no corridor linking Serbia with Banja Luka and beyond to Serb-held territories in Croatia. "These corridors only make sense if you are thinking of annexing the land to Serbia," one diplomat said.

Chinese leaders opt for continuity as hardliners return

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

CHINA unveiled a new cabinet yesterday but squandered its chance to appoint a leadership in harmony with its headlong rush to market-driven capitalism.

Once every five years the parliament votes on senior leadership positions. With this week's re-election of Li Peng as prime minister and the appointment of Jiang Zemin, the party leader, as president, the parliament has reconfirmed two communist hardliners in charge of a country that is carrying out huge privatisation projects and that enjoyed 12.8 per cent growth last year.

Mr Li was closely involved with the massacre of student demonstrators in 1989 and Mr Jiang came to prominence in the immediate aftermath. Both are men whose communist pedigress fulfilled the needs of the party almost four years ago, but both have become anachronisms in the present time of economic liberalism. However, the party did rewrite its constitution to bring it into line with Deng Xiaoping's capitalist-style reforms. But their efforts to throw themselves behind the reforms have been quite obviously opportunistic rather than heartfelt.

Mr Li, 64, has proved himself a capable economist and manager, but does not command the respect of his closest rival, Zhu Rongji, the deputy prime minister, who is believed to be more committed to economic reform. For many people, Mr Zhu would have been the right choice for prime minister at a point when China is undergoing a metamorphosis. His name, however, did not appear on the ballot.

It was most likely Mr Deng, 88, the senior leader, who ultimately decided that Mr Li should be allowed to stay and indeed that Mr Jiang should become president. Mr Deng is not believed to have much affection for either man. He does, however, believe that China should have a stable political leadership during the next few years and therefore favours the status quo. Mr Deng is also constrained to support Mr Jiang because back in 1989 he declared that the Mr Jiang would be his successor.

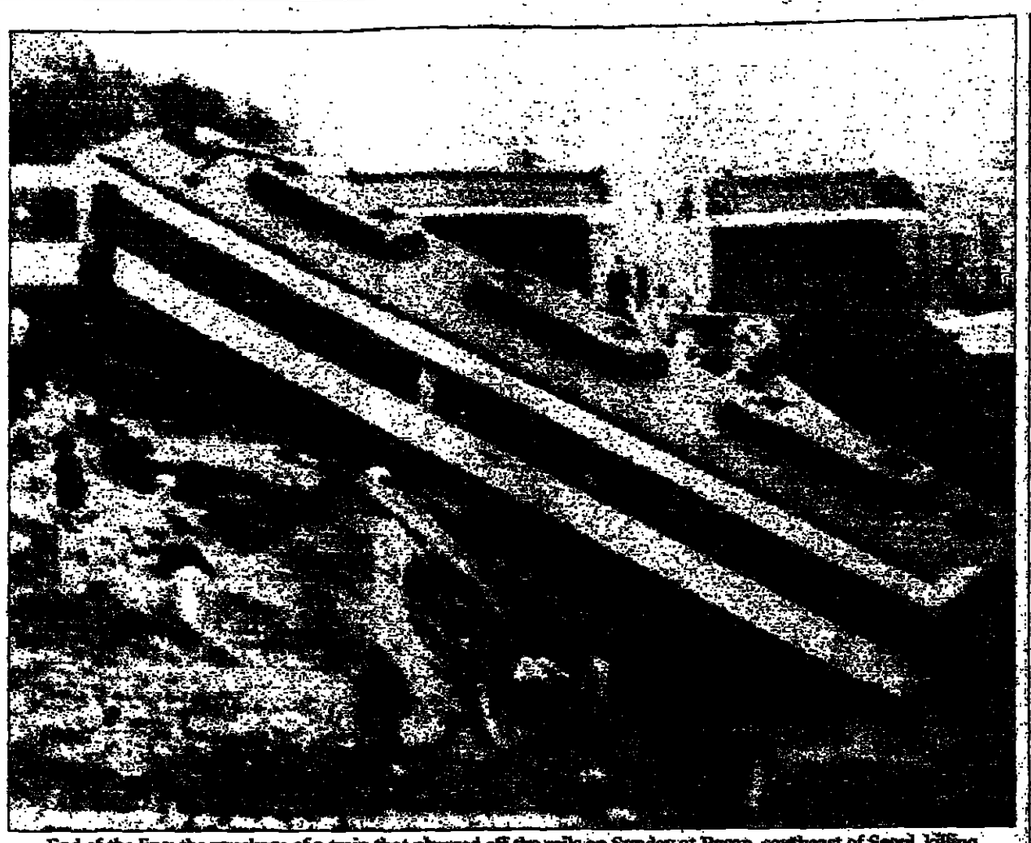
However, it is becoming increasingly clear that neither Mr Li nor Mr Jiang may have the power to win in the struggle that inevitably will follow the death of Mr Deng. Both are colourless characters without the weight of authority necessary for the person who will hold China together. The field might be open to a third force, perhaps even to Mr Zhu, who has what some consider an excess of gravitas.

At a lower level in the hierarchy, there appeared to be more consideration of the needs of the economy as the parliament elected technocrats to ministerial positions yesterday. In one significant move, Hu Qili, who was disgraced after 1989 as an ally of Zhao Ziyang, the ousted general secretary, was rehabilitated when he was named electronics minister.

There has been no suggestion at this parliamentary session, however, that economic liberalism is giving birth to political liberalism. Rather, economic development is simply taking priority over ideological rhetoric. In a public relations move for foreign consumption, the country's most famous avowed capitalist, Rong Yiren, 77, was appointed deputy president.



Jiang: unlikely to win in leadership struggle



End of the line: the wreckage of a train that plunged off the rails on Sunday at Pusan, southeast of Seoul, killing at least 79 people. The embankment collapsed, possibly after it had been undermined by electric cabling work

Pyongyang defies deadline

FROM REUTER IN TOKYO

NORTH Korea made clear yesterday that it will defy an ultimatum to open two suspected nuclear weapons sites to international inspection, even at the risk of incurring United Nations Security Council sanctions.

Facing a deadline of tomorrow to allow access to the sites, Pyongyang issued a defiant statement that gave no hint of compromise. It merely disputed the legality of a threatened referral of the nuclear issue to the security council.

The foreign ministry said that if the security council was asked to impose sanctions, "we will be compelled to take a powerful self-defensive measure". It did not elaborate.

Despite its denials, North Korea is widely believed to be on the brink of developing nuclear weapons and international pressure has been building for tough action if it fails to meet the inspection deadline. Opposition to punitive sanctions is led by China, a fellow communist state and North Korea's only ally with a security council veto.

Japan 'is not ready' to end executions

FROM REUTER IN TOKYO

MASAHARU Gotoda, the Japanese justice minister, reported to have ordered Japan's first executions since 1989, said yesterday that the nation was not ready to abolish capital punishment.

Weekend media reports said that at least two, and perhaps several more, convicted murderers had been hanged in Japanese prisons the previous day. Human rights groups protested immediately. The government does not announce executions, but Mr Gotoda's comments in parliament appeared to confirm that some at least had taken place.

In indirect criticism of his two predecessors who had refused to sanction hangings, Mr Gotoda said Japan could not be expected to maintain order if the justice minister blocked sentences imposed by judges. "I think a nation's law and order — the basis of a nation — would be disrupted," he said.

On the death penalty, Mr Gotoda said: "As an institution it should be reviewed, but I do not think Japan is ready for its abolition. Judges have passed down death sentences and it is not for me to make a political decision on that."

Since 1945, more than 580 criminals have been hanged in Japan. Amnesty International said. Fifty-eight prisoners were awaiting execution.

Khmer Rouge try to coax refugees

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN YEAH ATH, CAMBODIA

Sergio Vieira de Mello, a senior United Nations official, needs all the help he can get in resettling 370,000 Cambodian refugees before UN-supervised elections in Cambodia in May, even if that help comes from the Khmer Rouge, under whose rule up to a million Cambodians died.

"I don't need anybody to tell me about their history," the head of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Cambodia said. "The Cambodians who are returning here are PhDs in that history. The refugees know the Khmer Rouge better than anyone."

Senhor de Mello, a Brazilian whose repatriation operation is considered one of the most successful of the UN's troubled mission here, will be at Site 2 today, the largest refugee camp along the Thai-Cambodian border. There Sadako Ogata, the UN refugee commissioner, will officially close the camp, although 29,000 displaced people remain to be returned to Cambodia including 800 "refuseniks" who say they will not go.

Now — even as the Khmer Rouge is accused of massacring Vietnamese settlers, kidnaps UN personnel and refuses to disarm under UN peace accords or to take part in elections — it is carrying out an "experiment" in northwest Cambodia, east of the Thai border: they are handing out free plots of rich farmland to those bold enough to live under their rule again.

Furthermore, the terrain is "guaranteed free of landmines" in a country where large areas of land not already cultivated are uninhabitable because of mines or fighting.

Residents across the line in Nimit say they still fear the Khmer Rouge, and that anyone coming to live at Yeah Ath "must be mad". But as a I drove across the mile-wide no man's land dividing Phnom Penh soldiers in Nimit to a Khmer Rouge position at Yeah Ath, I saw four refugee families with their worldly possessions making the same trip.

Since the project began in mid-January, 1,018 families (4,576 people) have arrived, a majority former residents of Khmer Rouge controlled refugee camps. There is a reassuring sign in the village — the UN flag flies. This is the only site in Cambodia where the UN is established in territory under the sole control of the Khmer Rouge.

"People are making haste to join us," says Long Norin, a Khmer Rouge official. "If this experiment proves successful, I have the go-ahead from higher authorities to open more land for returnees of all political factions."

It seems a great leap of faith for Cambodian refugees to return voluntarily to live under Khmer Rouge rule, but when you are poor and landless few other options exist. Some seem to consider it worth the gamble.

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NATIONAL BREAKDOWN
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Time runs out for Dundee

Walter Ellis joins the apathetic Timex pickets in a city that has lost everything but hope

TOM KIDD



"We did everything for them. We did whatever was necessary. And what thanks did we get?" Pickets at the Timex dispute vent their wrath

For a moment, it was like an after-image of Greenham Common. From a canvas tent pitched in front of a high perimeter fence, women in dungarees distributed tea and sandwiches to friends and visitors huddled round a glowing fire.

The women, most of them of a certain age, were bent on victory, detecting solidarity where others might see only isolation. "We're not just doing this for ourselves," one of them said. "We're doing it for everyone in our position, and for the children."

Yesterday's early-morning picket of the Timex factory in Dundee, where a unionised workforce has been replaced by non-union outsiders, was a pale reflection of something else as well — Wapping, Grunwick, the miners' strike. If this was part of the militant revival now said to be sweeping the workplaces of Britain, then militancy has suffered a relapse.

A week earlier, after a mass picket in which there had been 16 arrests, the 300 sacked Timex workers and their supporters had promised that yesterday would see an overwhelming expression of people's power. Timex, they said, would become a symbol of management tyranny and worker heroism that would galvanise all of Scotland behind the union cause.

It did not. Instead, fewer than 500 pickets, legal and illegal, turned up, to be confronted by some 50 to 60 Tayside police. When several coachloads of the new workforce arrived, just before 8 o'clock, crouched down in their seats or else staring resolutely ahead, they were subjected to the high-volume and sustained digital abuse of which only a Scottish crowd is truly capable. Others, running the gauntlet alone in their cars, were accorded the same treatment. "Scab! Scab! Scab-by scab!"

Yet as soon as the metal gates swung shut, the crowd — never a mob — grew quiet again, even entering into some good-humoured banter with the police. The threat of violence turned out never to have been more than a fiction.

From time to time, a group of protesters, usually Scottish Militant, would launch into a chant of, "The workers, united, will never be defeated". But their hearts weren't in it. This was the militancy of gesture, not of substance. Meanwhile, behind the fence, the new workers, the Timex 200, were hard at work honing their new skills.

Wilma Reid, a former repair operator with 20 years' experience, who took home just £127 a week before she was sacked in January, was stoical. "I think we'll get our jobs back. We have to believe that."

Iris Murphy, another Timex veteran, was equally determined, if less convinced. She gestured at the low, yellow brick factory just beyond her reach, where the "scabs" — recruited mainly from the dole queues of Dundee and Fife — were busy learning the intricate electronic embroidery of circuit board manufacture.

"The people in there", she said, "they come in when they like. At 8 o'clock or 10. We used to get into trouble if we were two minutes late. It's like going back to Victorian times. They've got a workforce of people who cannot show their faces when they go out the gates."

"Aye," Ms Reid said. "We did everything for them. We did whatever was necessary. We were very flexible. And what thanks did we get?"

In fact, the staff, most of them Timexkeepers of long-standing, were fired because, in the management's view, they were not flexible enough. Peter Hall, the company's managing director in Scotland, faced mounting losses, mostly due to a recession-induced decline in the market for circuit boards. His response was to demand further cutbacks in staff, coupled with a tightening up on such fringe benefits as workbreaks and the subsidised canteen. It was his workers' refusal to accept his ruling on such matters that led to a potentially ruinous 20-day strike and his decision to de-recognise the union — the Amalgamated Engineering and Electricians' Union (AEEU) — and replace its die-hards with a new staff.

> Workers' solidarity remains a chimera. Pickets were throwing their own placards on to a brazier to keep themselves warm

Slowly, he is winning his battle. The defeat inflicted on his previous workers is unquestionably a cruel one, undeserved in terms of their record and skills but, as he saw things, he had been left with no alternative. In mitigation, he points to his hope that employment at the factory should rise this year from 200 to 750.

A bitter scepticism about company prospects exists on the other side of the perimeter fence. One poster attached to a tree reads starkly: "He's alien, arrogant, ruthless, fork-tongued and heartless. Who is he?" No prizes are given for guessing the answer.

Many protesters claim, with a desperate optimism, that they can somehow retrieve their desperate situation. They and their neighbours have seen unemployment rise around them for years. Their fear is that, having lost their jobs, they may never work again.

In Dundee, a grey town in a grey region, with an unemployment rate of 10.2 per cent and only the most insecure of footholds on the stairway of high techology, Timex's rough justice is seen as no justice at all.

The company has been on Tayside for nearly 50 years, and as recently as 1983 employed 4,300 people.

Successive disputes and periods of economic recession took their toll not only on the workforce, much of it female, but on the self-esteem so crucial to industrial revival.

To journey around Dundee in 1993 is a depressing experience. The city is a sad example of the worst of 1960s and 1970s urban planning, and even today seems to attract the least imaginative civil architects in Britain.

From the Tay, crossed by its two undistinguished bridges, the city skyline is repeatedly scarred by concrete. Overhead walkways join a collection of civic amenities, such as the Olympia Leisure Centre, the casino, and the planned Discovery Centre, spoiling what little remains of what was once a dignified Victorian city.

There is a feeling of desolation, little relieved by the authorities. Much of the vigour that remains is in the hearts of the city's 170,000 citizens, who remain remarkably cheerful in the face of adversity.

Behind the city's concrete facade, high-rise blocks and 1930s tenements vie for prominence, while the commercial detritus of the Jute Age and the Thatcher boom of the 1980s have become sorry monuments to repeated false dawns.

Workers' solidarity, however, remains a chimera. Pickets yesterday were throwing their own placards on to a brazier to keep themselves warm. A handful of banners and a protest of posters is no answer to an empty purse. The dispossessed of Timex must think again.

Failing the maths test



MARGOT NORMAN

In England it remains perfectly acceptable to admit at the Establishment dinner table that maths never was one's strong point. Indeed, "I never was much good at maths, I'm afraid" is not an apology or even an admission at all, but a veiled declaration of membership of a cultural élite for whom (no blasphemy intended) the Word is God and Number is Nowhere.

The mark of the barbarian is misuse of the apostrophe, not inability to calculate the VAT on a bill. Truly, the way to silence the chattering classes is to set them a quadratic equation — and that includes several Oxford economists I can think of.

It may be, therefore, that the latest report from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, *Educational provision, educational attainment and the needs of industry: a review of research for Germany, France, Japan, the USA and Britain*, will have a less sobering effect than it should. This is not, after all, the first time we have been told that our school population is less literate, less numerate and less "geared to the needs of industry" than those of our competitors, and are not our grand educational reforms going to tackle those very problems?



For many, the Word is God and Number is Nowhere

The report's authors, Andy Green and Hilary Steedman, have collected a depressing selection of findings which show that we have been given this message since the mid 1960s and have ignored it, during which time our competitors have streaked ahead, and our own standards have fallen.

(Correction: We have been *garbling* this message since the mid 60s, when a study by the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) of mathematics in 12 countries made an elementary error and misinformed us that our 13-year-olds came fifth out of twelve. In fact they were not 13, but nearly 14½, and after adjusting for age should have been ranked ninth. The average English child at that time lagged more than a year behind German children, and two years behind the Japanese; the gap has since worsened. Impossible to imagine a German economic institute being so innumerate.)

The other thing to come out of that study was the famous British "Long tail of low achievers". At 18 the British did well in maths, partly because of our tradition of teaching the top 20 per cent properly and letting the rest go hang (good grammar schools, terrible secondary moderns), and partly because only those who were good at maths and chose the subject were still studying it at 18. This tradition has survived comprehensivisation: the long tail is still there, but the top group is smaller. Science and maths candidates made up 44 per cent of A-level entrants in 1963, but only 21 per cent in 1990. And although only 7 per cent of our children are in private schools they get half of all top grades at A level.

A later study by the IEA, in the mid-80s, put our ten and 14-year-olds at the bottom of a 17-nation league in science. Taking a closer look at the "long tail" two years ago, Green and Steedman asked French and German teachers how some GCSE maths papers designed for our bottom 40 per cent compared with what they expected of their own low achievers. The teachers wanted to know why there were no questions on multiplying fractions without using a calculator, geometrical problems, percentages or simultaneous equations.

We are caught in a vicious circle, as fewer people choose maths at A level, fewer teachers with maths qualifications enter the system, the subject is taught less well, expectations and standards among teachers and taught contract, and so on. One piece of research which Green and Steedman's report does not mention is an even more depressing study by the government's Assessment of Performance Unit, which found that standards among 11 and 15-year-olds measurably declined in respect of basic arithmatic, algebra, decimals and fractions between 1982 and 1987. The unevenness that has dogged our uniquely incoherent, decentralised system was shocking: children in Northern Ireland did 20 per cent better than English children.

This, then, is the rock bottom we had reached when the national curriculum and national testing came galloping — well ... ambling — to our rescue in 1989. Alas, Green and Steedman can barely muster one cheer for the reforms, saying that until we tackle the post-16 muddle of qualifications and stop borrowing discredited ideas, such as the Training and Enterprise Councils, from America, the gap can only widen.

Meanwhile, the French, German and Japanese have shown that, with a clearly understood, standardised curriculum and qualifications system that includes regular testing and reporting to parents, it is possible to raise everybody's game dramatically. Admittedly the Japanese spend a third more time at school than we do, but it remains awe-inspiring that the average teenage IQ in Japan has been raised to 117, compared with 100 here and in America.

When I interviewed the Japanese education minister six years ago, he was politely incredulous that an advanced nation should think it could educate its people without having a national curriculum. The only thing he wanted from Britain was a few tips on how to create Etons and Oxfords for the Japanese élite.

A new Dayan takes command

Death threats do not turn Yael Dayan, daughter of Israel's greatest general, from her political path

Like most Israeli parliamentarians, Yael Dayan likes to begin her day by going through the morning post. Unlike her colleagues, however, most of her correspondence is anonymous, and many of the authors set out in graphic detail how they intend to kill her.

"You have gone too far. There is a plan to kill you. The death verdict will be executed soon," says a note scrawled in Hebrew pinned to a board beside her desk.

Another letter, neatly printed out by a computer, is slightly more sophisticated, but the message is no less crude: "You were elected to the Knesset because your father was Moshe Dayan, the robber of antiquities and the state's greatest adulterer. You should quickly resign from the Knesset before we make you resign from life."

"I don't mind these anonymous cheats too much, but the phone calls to my home upset my husband," she says. "My children have been threatened and sometimes I am harassed physically when people recognise me on the street."

A middle-aged mother of two, Ms Dayan's petite frame and demure manner are hard to reconcile with her reputation as the *enfant terrible* of the Knesset. Yet in the nine months since she was elected to the parliament, the novelist, feminist, left-wing agitator and daughter of Israel's most famous war hero has become the country's most controversial politician. Some would say the most hated.

Ms Dayan first made the headlines last autumn when she was photographed on a Tel Aviv beach sunbathing in a bikini during Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, the holiest event in the Jewish calendar. However, this mild act of rebellion was nothing compared with her exploits over the past two months, when hardly a week has gone by without a Dayan headline in the Israeli press.

Her most notorious achievement occurred on January 29, when she took advantage of a new law which removed the ban on contacts with the outlawed Palestinian Liberation Organisation: she travelled to Tunis for a meeting with Yassir Arafat. Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, was the first to condemn the contact, describing it as "reckless" and "an infamy and a shame for the Labour party".

Fellow Labour members of the Knesset also rounded on her, many calling for her resignation and some demanding that she be removed from the influencial foreign affairs and defence committee, where she is best known for her regular wars of words with the country's military and intelligence chiefs.

Undeterred from her solo mission to meet Israel's most hated Arab enemy, Ms Dayan then caused another furore days later in the Israeli parliament. In a well-orchestrated and much publicised event, she invited prominent gay and lesbian Israelis into the Knesset to promote legislation to end discrimination against homosexuals. Israelis were stunned when Professor Uzi Even, the head of chemistry at Tel Aviv university, who had served on the army general staff, "came out" along with other prominent public figures.

In defence of her action, Ms Dayan then nearly caused the resignation from the coalition government of the key ultra-orthodox Shas party. Ignoring the appeals by religious Knesset members to stop, she quoted from the Old Testament's Book of Samuel, in which King David described his love of Jonathan as "passing the love of women", an unsubtle insinuation that one of the most revered Jewish monarchs was homosexual.

Ms Dayan is unrepentent about the course of shock therapy she has administered to the Israeli public. "I think I have done very well," she says. "I believe in a voice being heard loud and clear. I am not a politician in the usual sense. I do not sit in back rooms conniving and cutting deals. I have no tactics. If I have something to say, I say it."



Flash point: Yael Dayan prompted controversy when she met Yassir Arafat

Her self-confident manner, charisma, and her thick skin are, for many Israelis, reminiscent of the qualities of her late father, the hero of the 1956 Sinai campaign and the 1967 six-day war, who died 11 years ago but whose presence is still felt today by his children.

Although Ms Dayan was closer to her father than her two brothers, Assi, an award-winning film director, and Udi, a sculptor, his memory still evokes mixed emotions.

In her book, *My Father, His Daughter*, she catalogued her father's adulterous relationships and his notorious greed. His insensitivity was brought home to his family when he disinherited his first wife, Ruth, and his children, and left his £1.3 million estate to his second wife, Rachel.

In spite of the bitter legacy, Ms Dayan concedes that she can identify many of her father's traits in her own character. "I do not know what characteristics I inherited from my father, but he did give me immunity, in the sense that I will not deviate from my ideas because of attacks," she says. "At the same time he taught me not to be stagnant, and not to be afraid to change my mind. This self-confidence made him a good general and a good peacemaker."

> 'He taught me not to be stagnant and not to be afraid to change my mind'

For the time being, at least, the general's daughter looks set to emulate her father's warrior tradition, rather than make peace with her detractors. "I feel I have to produce something every day. You have to approach problems in a revolutionary way. You have to be prepared to break down the walls," she says. "Even if I do not get elected again, at least I will have left a mark."

RICHARD BEESTON

A sportsman's diet supplement which can be taken in place of steak may be good for morale but should only be taken with care

Creatine: food for rapid rowers

There is good evidence that beta-carotene, vitamin C, and vitamin E will reduce the incidence of some malignant disease, and even better evidence that the same anti-oxidant vitamins will protect the heart's arteries against coronary disease. Garlic, in its raw state, and probably onions, too, are cardio-protective. Fish oil is an anti-inflammatory agent.

A carefully-filled larder, and a well-planned menu, may be as useful in preventive medicine as complex pharmaceuticals. Even so, there are those who rebel at the thought of a diet, however healthy, which is dominated by citrus fruit, salads, wheat germ, walnuts, carrots and broccoli, and would be far happier joining a rowing eight as they sat down to their traditional fare of steaks and eggs.

Traditionalists hope to obtain the best of both worlds by enjoying their roast beef, and supplementing with vitamin and mineral supplements, fish oil, and garlic tablets bought from the chemist. Cambridge's Boat Race-winning crew, who have been taking creatine, claim that as it is a natural substance — methyl guanidine acetic acid — derived from the juice of muscle tissue whether fresh fish or meat, the practice is no different morally from the diner who may choose to have his beta-carotene in the form of a carrot from the garden, or a pill from the pharmacy.

Acceptance of the role of the cook in health is not new; nobody has yet suggested that Jonathan Swift, born in the 17th century, who said: "Kitchen physic is the best physic", ever knew that he was merely echoing William Bullein, who, 100 years earlier, had suggested that 'a good kitchen is a good apothecary's shop'.

Henry Mahon, the New Zealander who coached the Cambridge Boat Race crew but usually works in that centre of complementary medicine, Switzerland, has gone further than either Swift or Bullein. Not content with pounds of steak for his crew, he has reinforced the resources of his chef by feeding them with Ergomax, a refined form of creatine marketed by AMS from Hull and taken dissolved in a glass of water.



THOMAS STUTTAFORD

It has been claimed this week the crew would have to eat more than eight pounds of steak to obtain the same amount of creatine as is found in one Ergomax tablet.

The concept that creatine is a cardiac, muscle, and digestive tonic is well-established, even though it has only recently become fashionable in sporting circles. Creatine was taken by many competitors at the Olympics in Barcelona and is, it is rumoured, by some rugby league teams. Trainers, it is said, feed creatine with advantage to both greyhounds and racehorses, and there is apparently some evidence that after taking it, they, like athletes, perform better.

Creatine is involved in the laying down of muscle bulk and the metabolism of exercise. The average human body contains 120 grams; 98 per cent in the muscles, 1.5 per cent in nervous tissue, and 0.5 per cent in other organs. It is normally absent in healthy urine, but can be found there in some wasting diseases; in starvation in which the muscles are shrinking; and in athletes who have over-extended themselves, particularly if the athlete is under-trained.

Recently, some athletes have very misguidedly been taking not the gram a day as recommended, but up to 30gm or the equivalent of 300lb of steak. The effect of this must be quite unknown. Certainly kidney failure results when too much creatine is excreted after severe muscle damage from whatever cause, and 30 grams a day might test the most efficient renal function.

Taking Ergomax cannot in any way be compared with taking steroid hormones or stimulants, but it does seem a rather more risky habit for instance than having the morning garlic and vitamin C tablet handed out by a wife to her overweight, middle-aged, under-exercised husband.

In immediate post-war years, when rationing was rightest, it always seemed that an Oxford college eight, somehow, were able to dine off steak while the rest of us made do with rook pie.

The Cambridge crew won this year's Boat Race because they were the better crew, and it must be doubtful if the Ergomax had any more effect than the steak did at Oxford over 40 years ago. In both cases the principal function of the supplement, whether the steak or Ergomax, was probably to boost morale.

TED BATH

No time to sleep on it

Ministers could have acted sooner on cot death findings, experts say

Could the government have acted over cot deaths sooner? Yesterday's news that cot deaths have been cut by 60 per cent after new medical advice has split child care experts on the question of whether thousands of babies died needlessly.

Three years ago there was clear evidence, from detailed studies in New Zealand, Australia and Avon, that a large majority of cot deaths were preventable by simply putting babies to sleep on their backs. The assertion yesterday by Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, that she could not have responded more rapidly to the findings has proved to be of little comfort to the parents of victims — 1,500 die every year.

The clear evidence was on our own doorstep. For two decades parents had been told by doctors and health visitors that babies should be left to sleep on their tummies. But a four-year research project in Bristol reported in 1991 that cot deaths dropped from 3.5 per thousand in the late eighties to 1.7 per thousand when parents were told to put their babies to bed on their backs.

Avon Health Authority, out of line with national guidelines, immediately recommended that all parents should follow suit.

Dr Ruth Gilbert, a lecturer in epidemiology based at the Institute of Child Health, a researcher on the Avon project, believes the government could have acted sooner: "It was November 1991 when the government took up our recommendations, but in June 1990 the findings were published in the *British Medical Journal*. There had also been evidence in the early seventies suggesting that putting babies to sleep on their fronts was dangerous. This demonstrates that there needs to be a clearer way in which research findings can be used to the public good."

The government waited until November 1991 to abandon 20 years of health department recommendations. Belatedly it launched a national campaign advising that babies should be put on their backs.

Privately, many paediatricians accept that it was the publicity surrounding the death of television presenter Anne Diamond's four-month-old son that forced the government to act. For years there had been anecdotal evidence that government advice was wrong. In 1988 there was no response to a recommendation by the select committee on health and social services that the government commission urgent research.

In early 1991 the New Zealand government reported that cot deaths had been reduced by 50 per cent in six months. The survey showed that 73 per cent of cot death victims were sleeping on their stomachs.

Not everyone agrees that the British medical establishment was slow to respond. Joyce Epstein, secretary general for the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths, believes the government reacted swiftly: "I don't think it was appropriate to respond until June 1991. Research requires careful consideration and a certain amount of reflection."

Babies had for two decades been encouraged to sleep on their backs. In 1971 the government made the mistake of over-reacting to research which suggested that ailing premature babies should sleep on their fronts. That this was applied to all babies was the terrible mistake.

Yet there is still a rift among medical experts on the cause of cot deaths. At an international conference in Oslo this month there was a furious debate on the need for new advice. But if Britain's example is repeated, many cot deaths need not have happened.

KATE ALDERSON



Happy family under a hereditary shadow: seven-year-old Hannah Bayly (centre) is mildly affected by the Fragile X gene, while her sister Gemma, nine, and brother Michael, five, are normal

Has science opened Pandora's box?

Geneticists can now tell parents their children could be mentally handicapped or suffer a lingering death. The question, **Aileen Ballantyne** reports, is whether they should

A medical row is brewing over the potential risks and benefits of large-scale screening for the most common inherited form of mental handicap in Britain: Fragile X.

The subject of heated debate in last week's *Lancet*, screening has been made possible by highly sensitive DNA tests now being developed as a result of the recent discovery of the Fragile X gene. The new tests mean, in theory at least, that it will now be possible to inform an estimated one in 1,500 healthy women in Britain that they could pass a genetic disorder on to their child.

Fragile X affects an estimated one in 2,000 children and is second only to Down's syndrome in its frequency. But Down's is a randomly occurring chromosomal abnormality, whereas Fragile X is passed down through the generations.

Including Fragile X in the ever-widening range of tests available to pregnant women is extremely controversial. British doctors are angry at the suggestion in the *Lancet* by doctors at the Medical College of Virginia in the United States that the test should be offered to pregnant women with no family history of Fragile X. They believe this course of action could create enormous difficulties for many women until more is known about what the test results actually mean.

The discovery of the Fragile X gene, as with all such genetic finds, marked an important step forward in the understanding of the disease. But there are also dangers in the knowledge being uncovered daily by the Human Genome Project, the worldwide bid to map every one of the 100,000 human genes.

Knowing your precise genetic destiny is not always an advantage, as sufferers from a less common "family" disorder, Huntington's Disease (HD) which affects about one in 10,000 people in Britain, discovered last week with the isolation of the HD gene.

Once a new, highly accurate test for HD is developed, in the next few months, children of an HD parent will have a choice. They can either find out whether they too will die of an incurable disorder which causes slow but relentless mental and physical deterioration; or they can simply trust the roll of the "genetic dice" and hope they are one of the lucky 50 per cent of children with one affected parent who has not inherited the HD gene.

Until now, predicting the future of the child of a sufferer involved taking blood from several family members to test for "markers" on either side of the gene. This often proved difficult, particularly as a classic symptom of HD is denial of the disease's existence.

That complexity was removed at a stroke when the gene itself was found. The decision to be tested will now be an individual one, requiring no co-operation from other family members, and the result will be virtually 100 per cent certain, as opposed to the previous 95 per cent accuracy of tests involving several family members.

But certainty and individual freedom have their price. This disease often starts to show its first signs when the sufferer is in their mid-thirties or early forties, with adult offspring of their own. An unaffected person of that age, with one HD parent, may well only be coping with their personal risk by hoping they are one of the lucky 50 per cent. But the discovery of the gene means that the rights of adult grandchildren of an HD sufferer to know whether they also carry the HD gene will take precedence over the rights of their parent to be kept in ignorance.

If just one grandchild of an HD sufferer decides to take the new test, and tests positive, the untested parent of that grandchild will know beyond all doubt that they too will develop the disease.

The Huntington's Disease Association is also concerned that the discovery of the gene may mean that insurance companies will insist on members of affected families taking the new test as a condition of life insurance or obtaining a mortgage.

One of the co-discoverers of the HD gene, Professor Peter Harper, of the University of Wales College of Medicine, stresses that the way we deal with this advance is of enormous importance.

"This discovery is the prototype for all the problems of detecting genes for hundreds of inherited disorders in the future," he says. "If we can sort this out in a way that doesn't harm people, then there is hope that we will also be able to handle it well for other diseases."

With the exception of cystic fibrosis, most of the serious inherited disorders in Britain for which genes have already been isolated affect relatively small numbers of people, so there is no question of setting up pre-natal screening programmes to give women the option of terminating affected pregnancies.

But this is not the case with Fragile X. David Brock, professor of genetics at Edinburgh University, estimates that one in 300 to one in 500 healthy women in Britain, of normal intelligence, carry a "pre-mutation" of the Fragile X gene — which may or may not mean that it will expand to the full mutation in their children. "There are considerable uncertainties as to what you would tell these women," he says.

Even for healthy women of normal intelligence who are clear-cut carriers of Fragile X the decision of whether or not to terminate an affected pregnancy will be far more complex and far more heart-rending than deciding to abort a Down's syndrome foetus. For such carriers the chance of having a child that either has Fragile X itself, or is a female carrier of the disorder, is one in two.

If tests in early pregnancy — which carry about a one in 50 risk of miscarriage — show the unborn baby is a boy, and the test shows he has Fragile X, he almost certainly has the disorder and is likely to be severely mentally handicapped.

But the Fragile X test — done by chorionic villus sampling, which takes cells from the placenta — can not, as yet, differentiate between healthy female carriers and those who will be mentally handicapped. When it picks up Fragile X in an unborn baby girl there is only about a one in three chance that she will in fact have the disorder; in about two out of three cases she is likely to be a perfectly healthy little girl of normal intelligence whose only problem will be the one in two chance of passing the disorder, or her carrier status, on to any future child she has.

There is also a widely varying degree of handicap in the condition. Many affected girls, such as Hannah Bayly, aged seven, from Wiltshire, are only mildly affected, and can attend normal primary schools. Her mother, Jo Bayly, a former technical secretary, has two other children, both unaffected. Mrs Bayly finds it difficult to imagine what she would have done if she had known the risks before her affected daughter was born. "Having had Hannah, and realising that the disorder came from me, was difficult to accept. But Hannah is Hannah. She is as she is, and we love her."

Dr Jeremy Turk, clinical lecturer in child psychiatry at the Institute of Child Health in London, and a leading expert on dealing with the problems of Fragile X children, believes there are substantial numbers of girls attending ordinary schools with unexplained learning difficulties who in fact have mild undiagnosed Fragile X. Girl sufferers are often shy and withdrawn, avoiding their parents' gaze, and often also have a "mental block" when it comes to numbers and mathematics.

Some British doctors, such as Dr Peter Lunt, consultant clinical geneticist at the Institute of Child Health in Bristol, are considering large-scale screening of those with learning disorders for Fragile X, both to ensure that sufferers get the right form of teaching help, and to identify and counsel other family members about the risk of passing on the disorder. This, he believes, is entirely justified, unlike screening pregnant women with no history of the disease.

"We have to guard against simply causing unnecessary anxiety to thousands of couples planning to have a family, and remember the first principle of medicine, which is 'First, do no harm'," Dr Lunt says.

FACES OF FRAGILE X: HEARTACHE AND HAPPINESS

JUDITH POLLARD, of Nottingham, who has two boys with Fragile X, believes that knowing in advance that you can pass on the disorder would have its own problems. Finding out that her first son was mentally handicapped came as a complete surprise to her, as there was no known history in the family. Like many parents of Fragile X children, who look just like any other child, she was pregnant with her second baby before she discovered Joseph, now seven, had it.

"I knew what I was facing and that I could cope with it," she said. "So I went ahead with the pregnancy. Luke, who is now five, is our bonus baby because we decided to have him in spite of the knowledge that there was a one-in-two chance he too would have the disorder. In that sense, the knowledge gave me power to make an informed choice."

But she is glad she did not have to cope with that knowledge before becoming a mother for the first time. "If today's more sensitive carrier test had been available and I had known earlier, it would have brought me years of heartache," Mrs Pollard says.

"It would probably mean I would not have had a family at all. But I have two beautiful boys who are very loving. If I had not had them, my life would be infinitely less rich than it is now."

She would like to give birth to a child who is not affected, and may well become the first woman in Britain to have a baby who has been tested for Fragile X before her pregnancy has even begun.

Mrs Pollard, 36, is one of a small number of healthy women who carry a gene for a serious disorder awaiting a pioneering treatment at the Hammersmith Hospital, London. The new technique has already been used successfully for other serious inherited disorders and a small number of healthy babies have been born as a result.

The method, known as pre-implantation diagnosis, uses existing test-tube baby techniques and new, highly sophisticated methods of genetic amplification of a single cell to check for serious genetic disorders before the pregnancy even begins.

The checks are done on three-day-old embryos, which consist of only eight cells and are no bigger than the full stop at the end of this sentence.

Only embryos free of Fragile X would be transferred to her womb, so Mrs Pollard would know, right from the start of her pregnancy, that she has as good a chance as anyone of having a normal healthy baby.

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ADDRESS THE RIGHT PEOPLE IN THE £36bn HEALTH MARKET

Lynne Truss



■ When the alien wrinklies arrive, it is our washing-machines they will be after

A few years ago the American magazine *National Enquirer* ran a very helpful tip-list entitled "Ten Ways to Spot Whether Your Grandparent is an Alien". Evidently a large number of American teenagers were racked with worry on this issue and required some official guidelines for confirming or allaying their suspicions. So the *Enquirer* did its civic duty, telling youngsters to peel their eyes for certain telltale signs. "ONE:" it blared, "Gets up in the night for a glass of water. TWO: Remembers things from long ago with clarity, yet can't summon up details of yesterday afternoon. THREE: Takes naps."

The article did not explain what dastardly mission these alien wrinklies had been sent to Earth to fulfil, so naturally one formed one's own theory on the available evidence. Clearly they came here in their silver shiny spaceships with the sole intention of putting their feet up and grabbing forty winks. Independent evidence backs up this notion. For as any astronomer will gladly affirm, very few comfy chairs have thus far been sighted on the surface of Alpha Centauri.

I mention all this because according to a bizarre item in *The Times Magazine* on Saturday, the American passion for aliens has not declined. True, the *National Enquirer* no longer carries those entertaining whole-page adverts for genuine extraterrestrial mineral samples (actual size) ostensibly brought back by Wyoming women from adventures in hyperspace. But apparently a new American movie in which a spaceship abducts a humble logger from Arizona (keeping him five days) is billed on its posters as "Based on a True Story". It pulls you up short, this kind of thing. I mean, leaving aside the objection that *it can't possibly be a true story*, doesn't anybody stop to ask why superintelligent aliens would do it? I mean, what's in it for them?

It ought to be a source of national pride that in Britain we don't automatically think in terms of aliens. The "Lord Lucan Spotted in Sea of Tranquillity" story, accompanied by fuzzy aerial photo, somehow fails to grab our imagination, which should be cause for whoops of joy. Brits who abscond from work will possibly resort to far-fetched tales of illness or amnesia, but rarely do they claim to have spent a week in a spaceship unable to phone the office because the aliens (ironically) hadn't heard of Mercury.

"So where've you been?"

"Well, with aliens."

"Oh." A pause. "Was it good?"

"Fine, yes. We did some crop circles. They've got a special attachment."

"What were the aliens like?"

"Funny. They slept a lot, and kept asking me to remind them who I was, and then occasionally they got up for a glass of water."

Just why America is more susceptible to "true-life" alien stories is hard to account for (at least without being offensive), but it obviously entails a childish confusion about religion and space — which is a reasonable mistake, I suppose, since both originate in the sky. Visitations from the universe are the new-world equivalent of weeping statues in Catholic Europe, and in traditional American space movies, the identification of the visitor with the Messiah is so complete as to be almost laughable. In John Carpenter's film *Starman*, the alien comes in peace, is persecuted, raises the dead and ascends on the third day in a blaze of light. The fact that he also samples apple pie ("Terrific"), and wins half a million dollars in a casino does not detract from the analogy, it simply confirms that this is messianism American-style.

Of course, the ludicrous feature of the aliens-from-space belief is that it expects these visitors to take a wise, fair and godlike interest in the way we are running our planet, when it is more likely (as Woody Allen once pointed out) that they will just turn up one day and dump their laundry — socks, underpants, shirts, jackets — with instructions to have it ready by Thursday. Meanwhile they will settle down in front of our TVs for a mass alien after-dinner snooze. Another fond illusion bites the dust, but still, it's only the same lament that has resounded through the ages. We ask for bread, and they give us stones; we ask for gods, and they give us ironing.



Sun, sand and socialism

Take an Easter trip not just halfway around the world, but back in time too, with Castro's pie-in-the-sky tours

Bernard Levin

What are you doing for the Easter holiday? If you haven't yet made up your mind, may I make a suggestion? For no more than £635 a head, plus a few extras such as travel insurance, you can have 13 nights in Cuba, sampling the last bastion of — at the very words, moths fly out — "Marxism-Leninism". This is no Thomas Cook luxury cruise: you will be under the twin wings of — more moths — "Progressive Tours", in conjunction with CND.

"Progressive Tours"; what years of history awake at the words! The organisation goes back very many years — decades — and countless poor fools went under its aegis and found the Soviet Union a land of liberty, equality and — for those millions Stalin murdered — eternity.

But it was no joke. "Progressive Tours" was a front organisation controlled by the Communist party, and what it is now can be deduced, if deduction is needed, from the glowing picture of gallant little Cuba painted in the Cuba Peace Tour that the company is advertising.

> Now with the global defeat of the former Soviet Union, to which alone Cuba could turn for assistance, the chauvinist forces in America are trying to tighten the noose.

"Chauvinist forces"! If this doesn't stop I shall die of nostalgia.

> They are trying to impede freedom of trade on the seas and to order US firms in other countries to break national laws in order to harm Cuba. Their efforts have now met a welcome rebuff . . . The freedom and survival of Cuba are again of world-wide importance.

This touching plea might move a heart of stone, unless the heart of stone found out that so hopelessly inefficient is Castro's regime that from 1983 it could not produce enough sugar, of all things, though the island is practically made of the stuff.

But Progressive Tours, having tiptoed around the awkward fact that Gorbachev wanted only to get rid of this brutal satrapy, seem to be unable to face the truth about the end of the Evil Empire ("... with the global defeat of the former Soviet Union . . ."), and must be wondering what sort of customers are going to fork out £635 a go to be told that they have arrived in paradise.

Certainly, they won't be shown round the amazing number of homes owned by Castro, the lord of true communist self-imposed austerity, one of which is of such a palatial nature that it has a hunting estate attached to it, while several of the others have at least a bowling-alley. Nor will they be told about the curious number of his erstwhile comrades-in-arms who have suffered an untimely and inexplicable death. Nor, for that matter, will they be reminded that Castro was on the side of the plotters at the time of the failed coup against Gorbachev, along with such stalwarts of true socialism as Gadaffi and Saddam.

At this point, I think I am entitled to ask CND why it is going into partnership with a body that has never been anything but a communist front, particularly because since 1990 it has been public knowledge, through the publication of the last scraps of Khrushchev's memoirs, that in the Cuban missile crisis the hero Castro was urging Khrushchev to launch a nuclear strike against the US.

But there is an even more powerful reason for CND to have nothing to do with Progressive Tours. In that company's listing of its directors and shareholders, one of the directors has been (and may still be) Reuben Falber. Now Mr Falber was a leading figure in the British Communist party for many years, and spent those years indignantly denying that the British Communists received monetary support from Moscow. Then the Soviet Empire crumbled, and Mr Falber shyly confessed not only that Moscow was paying the British Communists, but that it was Mr Falber himself who was receiving the money and distributing it.

Now does not CND feel queasy at the thought of going into business with such people? No doubt CND knew nothing about Mr Falber's role (though they must have known that Progressive Tours was a communist front), but they can now show their innocence by pulling out of the visit to Cuba: indeed CND *needs* to pull out if it is to establish its innocence.

Over to Gary Lefley, who is now the general secretary of CND, and a man who doesn't seem to mind associating with Soviet front organisations. He was, for instance, the national organiser of the British branch of the World Peace Council, a Soviet-controlled propaganda unit; it supported the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, when even the British CP, most craven of the Communist parties *in partibus infidelium*, denounced the invasion.

Enough of Mr Lefley, and the moribund CND. Let us return to Progressive Tours and the socialist Paradise Isle, where the visitors will find what they were presumably looking for. Never mind the

> . . . vast and unpopulated beaches, shaded by coconut and royal palms and washed by the warmest and bluest seas, myriad desert islands with spectacular coral reefs, tropical forests teeming with parrots, orchids and hummingbirds . . .

for such sybaritism is the stuff of the capitalist world, its brutal overseers lolling in the sun and always thinking of new ways to do down the working classes. *This* is what we want, we Progressive Tourists:

> Visits and meetings will include the Institute for Friendship between the Peoples, the Peace and Sovereignty Campaign, a local Revolutionary Defence Committee, a women's committee and a students club.

And I hope the weather stays fine. But, as I conjure up the meeting between the Progressive Tourists and the Cuban Peace and Sovereignty Campaign, not forgetting a local Revolutionary Defence Committee, one or two awkward thoughts keep getting in the way — in my way, you understand, not in the way of those in charge of Progressive Tours or CND.

I turn, then, to the posthumously published new and up-to-date volume of Charles Humana's *World Human Rights Guide*, published by the OUP, and I open it at page 83, where Cuba's record is scrupulously, fairly, comprehensively, independently laid out.

As students of this indispensable work will know, each country classified in the study has 40 questions to be answered, covering every aspect of human rights, and its human rights rating is then measured out of 100.

Now then. Do Cubans have the right freely to leave their country, either permanently or temporarily? No, they do not. Do they have the right to gather together, peacefully? No, not unless they are assembling in favour of the government. Do they have the right to teach ideas and receive information? Alas, no: all institutions of learning are government-controlled, and all teaching is grounded in communist ideology. Are courts independent? No, "the goals of the socialist state must be served by its courts" — and lawyers are state employees. Do Cubans have the right to monitor violations of human rights? Er, no. Is there indefinite imprisonment without charge? You bet. Is there censorship of the press? Oh, do shut up.

Are there open and free elections, is independent book publishing allowed, are trade unions allowed to go on strike, are trials based on the principle that a prisoner is presumed innocent until proved guilty, are Cubans safe against arbitrary seizure of their property or police searches of their homes without any warrant, can citizens be assured that their nationality cannot be arbitrarily revoked? Well, no, actually.

Surely CND, if not Progressive Tours, must have qualms, or at least one ittie-bittie qualm, when faced with that catalogue of shame and wickedness? When *the Progressive Tourists are basking in* the pleasure of "unpopulated beaches, shaded by coconut and royal palms and washed by the warmest and bluest seas", when they go exploring the "myriad desert islands with spectacular coral reefs", when they wander into "tropical forests teeming with parrots, orchids and hummingbirds", will they give a thought to the people of Cuba who have been suffering such deprivation for many decades, and suffer it still?

But stay! I must be fair. Of the 40 questions that can be asked of Cuba's human rights record, number 39 puts the record straight: it asks if there is a right to use contraception, and the answer is a ringing Yes. It is all the more regrettable, therefore, that the answer to the fortieth and last question, on freedom from interference in strictly private matters, characterises homosexuality as a "bourgeois perversion".

Endless fishy business

Pieter van der Merwe on the net effect of trade wars

Two hundred years ago, *on January 2, 1793*, the Royal Navy sloop *Childers* was fired at from the French defences of Brest. These were the first naval shots of a war which was to end 22 years later on the field of Waterloo. But the only similarity with the recent abduction of naval personnel in the Channel and the insults to HM Patrol Boat *Blazer* at Cherbourg is that in both cases French officialdom strongly disapproved. The more worrying parallel between 1790s and 1990s is the ease with which "peaceful" protests by French potato farmers, lamb-producers or fishermen degenerate into mob violence. The violence is not uniquely French, but the passion and speed with which it explodes — almost as a first resort — probably helps to illuminate the Reign of Terror.

It may then seem odd that, in historical terms, fishing disputes have only occasionally added spice to the love-hate of *les rosbifs de perfide Albion* and *nos chers voisins*. In the 13th century, the fishermen of the Cinque Ports used their proximity to harass the French coast at will, but they also conducted a ferocious trade dispute with Great Yarmouth, to the pre-eminence of which as the English North Sea herring port they objected. Nonetheless, a treaty of Edward I specifically forbade English attacks on foreign fishermen, and until the early 17th century the Crown had a remarkably non-interventionist view of the rights of foreigners to fish on English coasts, actively encouraging landing and fish sales here.

Nor did England make any claims to "territorial waters" at a time when Denmark claimed the North Sea as far as Iceland; Sweden claimed the Baltic, and France claimed most of the Mediterranean. Then as now England preferred bilateral negotiations and treaties, rather than grand claims. When Denmark objected to Englishmen fishing off its Icelandic shores, Elizabeth I was as robust as more recent governments in defending their right to do so within established law.

The English and French fishing war in the 17th century was more against the Dutch, who dominated the North Sea herring industry — on which the wealth of Amsterdam was founded. A writer of 1614 reckoned they were making £4.5 million a year from it, and in 1609 James I finally banned foreign fishing within 14 miles of the British coast (the distance visible from a Dutch boat's masthead). The feebleness of the Stuart crown and navy to enforce the change was shown by a series of incidents in the 1630s, when French privateers either chased Dutch fishermen into English harbours or attacked them there.

Cromwell's navigation act of 1651, the rise of English naval power through the Dutch Wars and the revolution of 1688 established the anti-French axis of the next century, though their privateers remained an endless threat to British fishermen.

The three-mile limit of territorial waters — which was not yet the same as a fishing limit — passed into British law in 1800-1. Despite the limit, a Commons select committee of 1833 found evidence of French fishermen working well inshore. Also that a great deal of foreign fish was being illegally imported to Britain, that English fishing communities were suffering and that fish stocks were rapidly depleting due to the vast numbers of French boats (200-300 from Boulogne alone) and destructive methods not allowed in French waters. At the same time the French accused the British of predatory dredging on their oyster grounds. After much debate and lobbying a convention was signed in Paris on August 2, 1839, creating the first mutually agreed three-mile exclusive fishing zone off the coasts of both Britain and France. Then as now, politicians found it easier to agree than rival fishing fleets concerned with this week's bills.

The author is on the staff of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.

And be damned

SCALLYWAG, the satiricial magazine being sued by John Major for libel, has its own birthday present for the prime minister. On Friday, *Scallywag*'s solicitor, David Price, wrote to Biddle & Co, Major's solicitors, denying that the magazine ever meant to defame Major and offering to publish a clarification.

However, if Major does not accept this — and he has already rejected a similar offer from the *New Statesman* — *Scallywag* will lodge a rather different defence. Justification. Not on the ground that Major was having an affair, of course, but claiming that the subsequent litigation is a touch hypocritical.

In his writ, Major claims *Scallywag* labelled him a hypocrite: it referred to a comment Major *made during* David Mellor's affair with Antonia de Sancha about the Tory party not tolerating affairs, and commented that if he had been having an affair himself, the remark would have been hypocritical. *Scallywag*, says Price, had no intention of accusing Major of hypocrisy, but, he says, "if Major claims damages, they will seek to prove that in this case he is. Here is a man, they will argue, whose government is publicly committed to extending the right of innocent dissemination to printers, yet he is quite prepared to sue the *New Statesman*'s printers and *Scallywag*'s printers before the loophole is closed."

Whether Major is wasting his money pursuing *Scallywag* is quite another matter. Price admits that Sport Newspapers owns 70 per cent of the shares in WWR Publications, *Scallywag*'s publisher, but says: "These shares are now for sale. It would be a brave punter who bought them."

Disharmony

HAVING caused Cambridge Divinity dons to spit fire and brimstone with his assertion that "theology doesn't work", one might have expected Larry Adler, the 75-year-old American mouth-organist, to let up on religion for a while.

But no. He has now turned his attention to the Old Testament, showing strong support for an argument advanced by a leading biblical archaeologist, that the Old Testament is "a load of fiction".

Adler's fire was drawn to Cambridge when Susan Howatch, the monastic author who has renounced wealth, gave £1 million to the faculty to establish a lectureship in theology and science. He says the money should be spent on science alone, and blames theology for a range of evils from ayatollahs to the IRA.

"I was brought up as an orthodox Jew, but don't believe a word of it and I was suspended from Hebrew class," he says. "I think the lectureship's a complete waste of money. And, as for the Old Testament, it's all fables — there's not a shred of evidence that any of it happened."

Who else can he upset? Well, some members of the audience at his concert last week to celebrate Jewish music. "They walked out because they didn't like my jokes."



DIARY

Fun with blondes

WITH the arrival in London yesterday of Diana "Dede" Brooks as the London-based chief executive of Sotheby's worldwide, Lord Gowrie, chairman of Sotheby's Europe, has two Americans above him. Yet he has nothing but kind words for Brooks and her compatriot Roger Faxon.

"Dede," he says, in the voice of a man not keen to return to the world of £30,000 ministerial salaries, "is the most formidable manager I've ever met. She entered Sotheby's with a strong financial background, and what struck everyone was how good with people she was."

Gowrie says Brooks' appointment "makes no difference to me. I am not involved in the operation of the company as she is. I am involved in strategy and the customers. Anyway I enjoyed working for a remarkable blonde woman for 11 years, and I will enjoy doing it again."

● *The Liberal Democrats may have emerged victorious from last week's by-election for Bishops ward on Lambeth council, but the result has also encouraged others, not least Militant Labour, whose candidate Steve Nally pipped the Conservatives for third place with 337 votes. As the headline in the latest issue of* Militant *puts it: "Ain't no stopping us now." Apart from the electorate, presumably.*

Too late to help

AMONG the many saddened by the death at the weekend of Sir Michael McNair-Wilson is Julian Davidson, the Conservative candidate for the Newbury seat that McNair-Wilson made his own for almost 20 years until his retirement at the last election.

McNair-Wilson was keeping a close eye on constituency affairs in the run-up to the by-election, and had even considered coming out of retirement if a suitable candidate could not be found. "Faced with a call from the prime minister, I would have to think hard about a return," he told this column just a fortnight ago.

Not sharing the anti-Maastricht leanings of his brother, Sir Patrick McNair-Wilson, the MP for the New Forest, he was pleased when the local association plumped for Davidson, who is just 30 and an enthusiastic Major supporter. So much so, he invited him to lunch.

On the due date last Thursday, however, McNair-Wilson had developed a cold and, not wishing to pass it on to his guest, rearranged the invitation for this week. So Davidson never heard the wise advice he would have received from the highly popular former MP.

It is Davidson's loss, says Lord Walker, to whom McNair-Wilson became parliamentary private secretary in 1979, when Walker was minister of agriculture. "Michael had lived in Newbury for ages and understood it superbly. No one could have given a candidate better advice."

Sexual politics



Lesley Abdela, journalist and founder of the 300 Group, which campaigns for more women in Parliament, has been appointed *Cosmopolitan*'s first-ever political editor. The job is not full-time, and will involve discussing ideas for political coverage with the editor, Marcelle d'Argy Smith, as well as commissioning writers.

Abdela is already a regular contributor to *Cosmopolitan*, writing on such subjects as the anniversary of women's suffrage. She does not anticipate any conflict between her political musings and the magazine's traditionally racy content: "I had an article in a recent issue. The cover had 'sex' splashed all over it. If that is the way to get people to take more interest in politics, I have no objection."

BALLADUR'S BALANCING ACT

The battle for the Elysée will now dominate French policy

President Mitterrand's prompt appointment of Edouard Balladur as prime minister marks the end of the French parliamentary elections, but not the end of the Mitterrand era. France's centre-right has scored a victory which, in terms of seats, can be compared only with the house-cleaning in 1815 which swept away the politics of revolution. Of the voters' disgust with socialist rule, the result left no shadow of doubt. Yet there comparisons end.

Together, Jacques Chirac's Gaullist RPR and the centrist UDF led by Valéry Giscard d'Estaing won more than four fifths of the seats. But with 44 per cent of the popular vote, the coalition only partly filled the vacuum left by the socialists' collapse. A fifth of French electors voted either for the greens or the Front National, neither of which won a single seat in parliament. Discontent was the theme, yet the principal focus of discontent, President Mitterrand himself, appears determined to serve out the two years that remain of his term.

For political as well as constitutional reasons, therefore, the result was both decisive and ambiguous. The honeymoon for the new government will be correspondingly brief. In the hour of triumph, Napoleon said, lies the moment of greatest danger — words echoed by M Chirac as the last votes were being counted, when he exhorted the new majority to "master its victory".

The size of the majority means that President Mitterrand will have less leeway directly to undermine the government than he had between 1986 and 1988, the last "cohabitation". But he can exploit any failures by the coalition partners — whose ranks cover a spectrum from anti-Maastricht Gaullists to pro-European liberals — to cohabit with each other.

The presidential ambitions of M Chirac, currently the leading contender, and M Giscard d'Estaing are only one potential source of trouble. M Chirac has elected to keep his distance from the business of governing, conducting himself for the next two years as France's "natural president", but his chances in 1995 will hinge on the success of government policies. Unpopular decisions lie ahead on the economic front. The much vaunted intellectual symbiosis between M Chirac and the chosen prime minister, Edouard Balladur, may not weather the ensuing storms.

Aside from disgust with the socialists, the main issues in the election were immigration, crime, and unemployment. On immigration and law and order, the government is expected to legislate rapidly, but the economy will be more intractable. Growth is expected to be zero this year and this week's unemployment figures are likely to pass the three million mark. Despite the large budget deficit, the government has promised tax breaks and Frs 20 billion of new investment to restore growth and confidence. But reflation may be incompatible with its commitment to maintain the *franc fort* policy: short-term interest rates stand at 11 per cent, nine points above inflation and three above the rates in Germany.

The UPF hopes to reduce the risk premium by making the central bank independent and forging a "new partnership" with Germany. Chancellor Kohl is likely to demand in return that M Chirac eat his fiery words on agricultural trade, where he has threatened to derail the Gatt negotiations even at the risk of a crisis in the European Community. But the Bundesbank is unlikely to agree to the scale of interest rate cuts the French want, and the new government will need if the economy is to rebound in time for the 1995 elections. To maintain the *franc fort* could conceivably cost the right the Elysée; to jettison it would remove the mainstay of France's European policy. M Mitterrand contemplates a stage set for fratricide within the new majority, and across Europe.

SAFE IN THEIR COTS

Vigorous public health education has saved hundreds of lives

The dramatic decline in the rate of cot deaths is a remarkable victory over a malign and mysterious syndrome which in recent years has claimed up to five infant lives a day. There were 326 reported cot deaths in England and Wales in the first nine months of 1992, compared with 723 in the same period the year before: a triumphant vindication of last year's £2 million campaign urging parents to put their babies to sleep on their backs.

The causes of cot death remain depressingly opaque, although medical research has suggested that anything from kidney failure to toxic substances in certain kinds of mattress may play a part in its deadly riddle. The "Reduce the Risk" campaign, launched by the health department in December 1991, offered simple preventive wisdom rather than scientific explanation. Its success illustrates the power of vigorous public education and should encourage Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, in her drive to promote preventive medicine.

The health department's endorsement of last year's campaign reversed the official advice which had been given to prospective and nursing mothers since 1971. At that time, pre-term babies were judged to be safer if put to sleep on their stomachs. But identical advice was given to the parents of healthy, full-term infants. That error has taken more than 20 years to correct.

The prevailing direction of scientific research on cot death prevention has been clear for some time. By the middle of 1991, studies in New Zealand had shown that a change in babies' sleeping position had reduced the death rate per 1,000 live births from 6.3 between 1979 and 1984 to 1.3 in June 1990. A study of 3,500 babies in Tasmania came to similar conclusions in 1991, as did a smaller survey carried out in Bristol by the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths, which prompted a unilateral change of policy in Avon.

But governments must tread more carefully than regional authorities when issuing health advice to the nation *ex cathedra*. The wrong guidelines on cot death, hastily given out to expectant mothers, might have had tragic consequences and undermined public confidence in government health information. The health department was right, therefore, to hold fire until absolutely convinced by the accumulating evidence.

None the less, the government managed to give the impression of dither and uncertainty. In 1991, the best advice which Sir Donald Acheson, at that time the chief medical officer, could offer confused parents was that they should place their babies on their sides if in doubt. The official change of heart later in the year looked more like a rushed response to intense public pressure led by the broadcaster Anne Diamond than a considered administrative decision.

The success or failure of the government's national health strategy, outlined in Mrs Bottomley's white paper last year, will depend in large part on the quality of the information it issues. That in turn will require the health department to assess an ever-increasing flood of medical research from other countries — much of it reported in the British press — and to interpret it efficiently for the public before anxiety has set in. The government's role as arbiter of the medical debate is becoming as central as its function of providing resources.

A PLANNERS' WATERLOO

London needs a strategy, not make-do and improvisation



Waterloo International station, almost ready to open, may become the biggest white elephant in London, despite the competition in the pale pachyderm house from Canary Wharf and Tobacco Dock. Waterloo could become redundant in six years time, now that the Channel tunnel rail link is being built by the eastern route to St Pancras instead of by British Rail's preferred and geographically more direct route through sensitive southern commuterland to Waterloo. This affair is a fable of the folly of piecemeal provision of transport infrastructure, and of proceding by fits and starts and make-do-and-mend before having settled on an overall plan.

The most impressive station-building project since the Victorian railway age cost £130 million, and is a handsome monument to modern British architecture and engineering. Critics are enraptured by the curved glass and steel cocoon, wrapping itself around the edge of the old station, and enclosing five new platforms a quarter of a mile long to accommodate the long cross-Channel trains. It is more like an airport, with its escalators and travelators, and segregated arrival and departure areas, than a railway station. Enthusiasts called it one of Europe's great public spaces; nobody would see trains in the same way again.

The question now arises of who is going to see trains there at all, once the eastern route and St Pancras terminal announced in the Budget come into operation. For the first few years of the Channel tunnel operation, Waterloo has to be the sole London terminus for international expresses running along the old Network SouthEast tracks. But the station is built to handle more passengers than Stansted. Who is going to use it once St Pancras is available?

Waterloo will be a beautiful white elephant in the public transport wilderness of Apache territory south of the river. St Pancras will offer faster journey times and much better connections with the London Underground, bus and taxi services. Travellers who want to go to Waterloo will still be able to change near Gravesend in Kent and switch to the congested and unreliable Network SouthEast tracks for the last 22 miles. On a good day, which seldom occurs on these old lines, this will make their journey at least 17 minutes longer. A few high-speed trains may carry on using Waterloo for passengers with business south of the river. But most of them will take the St Pancras route, because it will be quicker and will have better connections.

Yesterday London Forum was launched to sell the capital overseas. Michael Howard, the Environment Secretary, declared that in an increasingly competitive world, London's pre-eminence as a major world capital needed to be restated. One way of achieving this for visitors would be to have strategic planning instead of *ad-hoccery*, and working draught animals in the right place instead of white elephants.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Denmark and the future of Europe

From Mr Roland Carter

Sir, The Danish foreign minister (letter, March 20) is surely wrong when he implies that the economic consequences of "non-Maastricht" must needs be dire. Denmark, like the UK (if we reject Maastricht), will still be a member of the European Community and, most important, of the single European market.

The defection of the two nations, as your correspondence columns over many months have amply illustrated, would indeed effectively destroy Maastricht.

I, for one, would rejoice. I have always assumed that a major purpose of the European Economic Community (as it was until recently) has been to act as an enabling and stable market framework to increase the wealth of its members. In this it has signally failed, dramatically and expensively in the very recent past, while the Community's share of world markets has been declining for nearly two decades. It has become increasingly uncompetitive and its non-wage labour costs, already excessive, will become even higher as a result of the "social chapter".

Protectionism has long been the order of the day in Europe and will continue to be while the "Maastricht spirit" prevails there, but it will not protect our living standards from the onslaught of more efficient open market economies.

Yours sincerely,
ROLAND CARTER,
Post Cottage, Langton,
Malton, North Yorkshire.
March 20.

From Mr Henrik Overgaard Nielsen and Ms Sharon Bierer

Sir, It would appear from his letter that Mr Niels Helveg Petersen, the Danish foreign minister, is so dramatically at odds with reality in Denmark that he is likely to find himself on the wrong side of the Danes on May 18, yet again.

His expectation of a "yes" in the referendum on the ratification of the Maastricht treaty is hardly supported by the rapidly falling "yes" vote in the polls. Indeed, a very similar pattern to last year is emerging, with the government and its cohorts running out of arguments as we approach the last months of campaigning.

Mr Petersen's assertion that in the event of a "no" vote "very few people dare dispute that the economic circumstances will be difficult to surmount" is not supported by the study he quotes.

On the contrary, that study, which was conducted by the finance ministry, states that only in the event of Denmark leaving the EC would the repercussion be dramatic. As this is not on the political agenda Denmark will not be in an "awkward position *vis-à-vis* the rest of Europe", as Mr Petersen contends.

If we achieve a "no" vote Denmark, as a signatory of the Treaty of Rome, will simply cause the Maastricht treaty to be abandoned, as it should have been on June 3, 1992. The only consequence will be a new, better drafted agreement, providing for a more representative and less centralised Europe of free, self-governing nations.

Our foreign minister shows by his comments on the British situation that he has no understanding of your voters' feelings outside the incestuous atmosphere of Westminster. His argument that the Edinburgh summit changed the treaty was disproved by the three British barristers whose paper, presented in Copenhagen in February, succeeded in convincing a number of distinguished pro-Maastricht Danes, including Ole Espersen, the social democratic former minister of justice.

Edinburgh changed absolutely nothing. The Danes will be voting against the same treaty on May 18, 1993, as they did on June 2, 1992. And "very few people would dare dispute" that.

Yours faithfully,
HENRIK OVERGAARD NIELSEN
(Chairman, International Committee, June Movement),
SHARON BIERER
(UK liaison, June Movement),
As from Kaehlersbakken 10,
4700 Naestved, Denmark.
March 21.

From Mr David Matthews

Sir, Mr Michael Fabricant, MP (letter, March 22), suggests we should sign a treaty first and renegotiate it later. Is this the sort of thing most people would do when considering signing a contract for buying a house?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MATTHEWS,
129 Shirland Road,
Maida Vale, W9.

Benefits from Channel tunnel link

From the Leaders of Dover and Thanet district councils

Sir, In the Channel tunnel rail-link debate it is sometimes assumed that Kent as a whole is against the high-speed link. This is not the case: indeed, the needs of east Kent are much the same as those of other parts of the nation — we need the high-speed link and we need it now.

The districts of Thanet and Dover are hard hit by the Channel tunnel project and are unlikely to be helped by the proposals to develop the East Thames corridor (details, March 25). Our economies since the war have been largely dependent on the growing ferry ports of Dover and Ramsgate.

Studies show that more than half the ferry jobs in Dover could go as a result of the tunnel, fully one third of all employment in the Dover travel-to-work area. Unemployment in Thanet is 16 per cent, in Dover 11 per cent (and projected to rise to 16 per cent by the end of 1996).

The single measure which would help more than any other to diversify our local economies would be the construction of the high-speed link with its associated international passenger station at Ashford. With connecting trains, this would place Ramsgate one hour and five minutes from London by rail and Dover one hour — a key factor for inward investment and general prosperity.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL WATKINS,
Leader, Dover District Council,
DEREK DOLDING,
Leader, Thanet District Council,
Council Offices,
Honeywood Road,
Whitfield, Dover, Kent.
March 25.

From Mr J. F. van den Arend

Sir, Sir Brian Hayes argues (letter, March 24) that the faster train link from the Channel to London should not be subsidised. He asks why it is important for passengers to get to Paris a little faster.

Actually, a half-hour saving on each journey would permit passengers to go to, and return from, meetings in either Brussels or Paris, and doubtless elsewhere, city centre to city centre, in one day: much less hassle on a newly constructed line than by air.

The Paris to Lyon TGV line demonstrates that more capacity means more people travel and that economic activity increases. We need the same standard of medium-distance communication that continental Europe is developing.

Finally, Sir Brian takes no account of the improvement to London rail commuter traffic that will occur as a result of this new line.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY van den AREND,
High House, Easton,
Woodbridge, Suffolk.
March 24.

From Mr Michael Wilder

Sir, In the event of the privatisation of British Rail taking place I would like to put in an early plea with the new owners.

May we please, once more, be accorded the title of passengers and not that of customers? The latter smacks of the supermarket and belittles the adventure of travel.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WILDER,
46 Castle Hill Road,
Hastings, East Sussex.
March 29.

Press regulation

From Sir Richard Storey, Chairman of Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspapers

Sir, The editor of *The Observer* (letter, March 12), coming from his litigious stable, might have been expected to call for a Press Council with teeth. However, for the Commons national heritage committee to take this colourful lure and to recommend a council with powers to levy fines and compensation (report, March 25) is a bad surprise.

Such a course would surely be inimical to the public. It would lead to grave penalties, such as licensing journalists or significant fines — ultimately payable by shareholders out of profits or by employees from reduced wages.

Before such penalties could legitimately be imposed, in this country, surely traditional equity would demand sufficient process. Thus newspapers (also complainants) would need costly legal representation (solicitors and barristers) and a regime involving the panoply and apparatus of a court including appellate procedure.

Complainants would seek recourse from the already overburdened legal-aid fund and there would be noxious consequences: a final determination, sometimes differing from an earlier one, could only emerge after the full appeal process had been exhausted — perhaps after several years as, typically, is the length of delay in the courts of law.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD STOREY,
Chairman, Portsmouth & Sunderland Newspapers, plc,
Buckton House,
39 Abingdon Road, W8.
March 26.

Muslim extremism

From Sir Sigmund Sternberg

Sir, Bernard Levin's article (March 23) on the treatment of Christians by extremist Muslims, particularly in Sudan, presents a sad picture of religious intolerance of the worst kind. Obviously everything possible should be done to contain and indeed reverse the "tide of bloodstained bigotry", and there are some positive steps in this direction.

When Dr Mohamed Sayed Attia Tanturi, the Grand Mufti of Egypt, visited this country last month he met the Religious Press Group and pledged a strong commitment to inter-faith dialogue. He referred to himself as "a fundamentalist who was not an extremist".

The BBC World Service performs sterling work in fostering the dialogue. So does the Inter-Faith Network for the United Kingdom, established six years ago, which is committed to promoting greater understanding between the different faith communities.

Education is all-important, and it is through dialogue and education that better understanding, and better behaviour, will be encouraged.

Yours sincerely,
SIGMUND STERNBERG,
Star House, Grafton Road, NW5.
March 24.

From the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia

Sir, I read with regret Mr Bernard Levin's most unfortunate remark that "there is, as is widely known, nothing that can be called law in Saudi Arabia: the will of the ruler is all". This is not the view of the Saudi citizens who hold their Shariah courts in great respect. Nor is this the view of the Muslims throughout the world who consider the Shariah the ultimate source of law.

Mr Levin is entitled to his views, even when they border on the racist and irrational. He is not, however, entitled to fabricate events to suit his views.

All the cases he cites are totally, or partially, invented. Obviously he is not in search of the truth — following in the footsteps of the gentleman who once declared, "my mind is made up: do not confuse me with facts!".

Yours faithfully,
GHAZI ALGOSAIBI,
Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia,
30 Charles Street, W1.
March 26.

Trade with Iran

From Mr Anthony Cavendish

Sir, I could not agree more with Sir Edward Heath's recent comment on *The Satanic Verses* in the Commons, which was referred to by Mr David Winnick, MP (letter, March 27).

"That wretched book", as Sir Edward called it, has delayed improvement, both of political relations and trade with Iran, for several years now, and each time one feels the situation has improved sufficiently for normalisation Mr Salman Rushdie stirs things up.

Two or three times we have got to the point where one thought we were six months off from exchanging ambassadors again, and sure enough there is fresh agitation. Iranian contacts tell me that the leadership is anxious for a solution.

Meanwhile, we are losing hundreds of millions of pounds' worth of business to the French because we are not encouraged to deal with the Iranians.

Yours etc,
ANTHONY J. CAVENDISH,
Lowfields,
Hartley Wintney, Hampshire.
March 29.

Business letters, page 25

Service training merger

From Rear Admiral R. V. Holley

Sir, The military engineering colleges currently have two main functions: to conduct degree courses in the appropriate sciences and to provide application training in the specific technologies of their parent services.

The physical sciences are, not surprisingly, the same for everybody, but the Royal Navy is by far the most complex technological service in Western Europe. Try counting the vehicles, sensors, weapon and ancillary systems which it operates for war on the sea, under water, in the air and even on land.

The only reason for closing the RN Engineering College at Manadon (letters, March 1, 15, 25) is to save money. There is certainly a cheaper way of providing degree courses and that is to use the national tertiary education sector, an argument which applies both to the Royal College of Military Science at Shrivenham and to Manadon; combining the two would merely delay the next obvious cut. Why should the Services run their own university? Others employ many more engineers without doing so.

Although Manadon is undoubtedly very well equipped, application training always did suffer from a lack of the specific ship systems and equipment which had been installed in other naval training establishments: they will certainly not be available at Shrivenham. There would therefore be clear advantages in re-locating this training within the Navy itself.

Fostering inter-operability between services is a worthy aim, but the first priority for engineering training is to ensure that all personnel are thoroughly conversant with the systems upon which their lives may depend.

Yours sincerely,
R. V. HOLLEY
(RNEC in command, 1982-4),
23 The Crescent, Alverstoke,
Gosport, Hampshire.

Computer hacking

From Mr Richard Cole

Sir, Mr Steven Bartlett (letter, March 25) states that the Computer Misuse Act, implemented to the letter, would result in "hundreds of thousands" of convictions against men and women who would normally be considered law-abiding. This cannot be correct.

The act creates three offences: *unauthorised* access to computer material, *unauthorised* access with intent to commit a further serious offence, and *unauthorised* modification of computer material. Law-abiding men and women can avoid committing offences by ensuring that they have the actual or implied authority of the owner of the computer programs or data for their access.

I criticise the act for making criminal in relation to records held on a computer what is not criminal in relation to paper records. If I walk through the open front door of your building, through the unlocked door of your office and take a file from your unlocked filing cabinet, read it and return it unmarked, I commit no offence. If, instead of opening your filing cabinet, I read a document stored on your computer, I do commit an offence.

It may be that the former ought to be an offence. Use of a computer should make no difference; either both acts should be offences or neither should be.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD COLE,
New Court, Temple, EC4.
March 25.

Police and public

From the Chief Constable of West Mercia

Sir, Your leader, "Boys in new blue" (March 24), asserts that "public satisfaction with police work remains low". The police could certainly do better and we are trying to do so. However, no opinion poll by any force, or any national poll, and there have been many in recent years, shows a public satisfaction level below 70 per cent.

My own force poll, conducted by Harris in 1991, showed 85 per cent public satisfaction. If this is low, then other institutions are really in trouble.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BLAKEY,
Chief Constable,
West Mercia Constabulary,
Headquarters, PO Box 55,
Hindlip Hall, Worcester.
March 24.

Actors in California

From Mr Patrick J. Wye

Sir, Sheridan Morley ("The British are going", March 25) is premature in talking of "the last flickers of an expatriate empire that once ruled Hollywood".

The Los Angeles theatre world is dominated by British productions and is in fact ruled by Englishman Andrew Lloyd Webber. The longest-running theatre production is *The Phantom of the Opera*; *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* is playing to packed houses; *Aspects of Love*, with English Sarah Brightman, is a best-seller; and we are looking forward to *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Evita* later in the year.

Yours truly,
PATRICK J. WYE,
1619 Valecroft Avenue,
Westlake Village, California 91361.
March 28.

Little parcels

From Mr Tim Carbury

Sir, At the risk of appearing heightist, am I to assume that the learned judge Martin Stephens, QC, 5ft 6½in in his socks (letter, March 29), is one of those little things that are sent to try us?

Yours faithfully,
TIM CARBURY
(5ft 9in),
11 Collier Close, Cove, Hampshire.
March 29.

The acid test

From Mr T. J. S. Patterson

Sir, Professor Robert McCance (obituary, March 22) was particularly fond of debunking the bogus claims of food supplement manufacturers. On one occasion he told a class of medical students that manufacturers had added so much salt to one of their products that it would "preserve it from the putrefaction it so richly deserves".

Yours faithfully,
T. J. S. PATTERSON,
80 St Bernard's Road, Oxford.

The first paragraph of Mr George J. Levy's letter yesterday on English Heritage plans should have referred to the "malicious and personal" campaign *against* (not by, as printed) Mr Jocelyn Stevens.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 29: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave a Reception this evening at Buckingham Palace for the winners of The Queen's Award for Export and Technology in 1992.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 29: The Duke of York was represented by Captain Rupert Maitland-Titterton at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Mr Francis Maurel Cumberlege at the University Church of Christ the King, Gordon Square, London WC1, today.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 29: The Duchess of Kent this morning visited the American Museum in Britain, Claverton Manor, Bath, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Avon (Sir John Wills, Bt).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon opened the Cardiac Centre at the Royal United Hospital, Combe Park, Bath, and later visited the Bridge Care Project, Bridgemead Residential and Nursing Home, St John's Road, Bathwick, Avon.

Mrs Julian Tomkins was in attendance.

Birthdays today

Lord Armstrong of Ilminster, 66; Mr Warren Beatty, actor, 56; Lord Browne-Wilkinson, 63; Mr Eric Clapton, guitarist, 48; Mr J.F. Coates, naval architect, 71; Mr George Esson, chief constable, Dumfries and Galloway, 51; Professor Sir Ernst Gombrich, OM, *former director, Warburg* Institute, 84; Sir John Gray, marine biologist, 75; Mr Rolf Harris, entertainer, 63; Mr J.S. Jennings, former managing-director, Royal Dutch/Shell Group, 56; Sir Ian MacLaurin, chairman, Tesco, 56; Lord Rayner, 67; Mr Tom Sharpe, novelist, 65; the Rev David Staple, General Secretary of the Free Church Federal Council, 63; the Countess of Sutherland, 72; Lord Tanlaw, 59; General Sir Richard Trant, 65; Sir John Wells, former MP, 68; Professor A.J. Zuckerman, dean, Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, 61.

Radical Society

The Radical of the Year award for 1992/93 was presented to Mr Dudley Fishburn, MP, on Friday, March 26, for his contribution to Leasehold reform. The award was presented by Mr John Spiers, Co-Chairman of the Society, at the St Stephen's Constitutional Club, Westminster. Fifty members of the Society were present.

Lecture

British Library
Dr Donald Lindberg delivered the seventh British Library Annual Dainton Lecture on "High Performance Libraries" yesterday evening at the Royal Society. Mr David Russon, Director General, the British Library Boston Spa, presided.

Luncheon

Royal Over-Seas League
Mr Robert Nixon, Agent General for Ontario, and Mrs Nixon were the guests of honour at a luncheon of the Royal Over-Seas League held yesterday at Over-Seas House, St James's. Mr Peter McEntee, chairman, and members of the central council, were the hosts.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will visit St David's Home for Disabled Ex-Servicemen in Ealing at 3.00.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as President of the Trustees of Westminster Abbey Trust, will attend a meeting in the abbey at 5.00, unveil an inscription on the north tower and attend a reception.

The Duke of York, commodore, will attend a fitting out dinner at the Royal Thames Yacht Club at 7.30.

The Princess Royal, as Chief Commandant of the WRNS, will visit *HMS Sultan* at Gosport at 8.30 am.

The Duke of Gloucester, as Patron of ASH, will attend a reception at the British Heart Foundation, 14 Fitzhardinge Street, at 6.20.

Dinners

English-Speaking Union
Air Marshal Sir Reginald Harland, English-Speaking Union Governor and President of the ESU East region, was the guest of honour and speaker at the cultural spring seminar opening dinner held last night at Pembroke College, Cambridge. Mr David Thorp, ESU director-general, presided.

Cardiff Business Club
The Deputy Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Councillor D.R. Ormonde, the High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, Mr Alistair Golley and the President of Cardiff Business Club, Sir Idwal Pugh, were present at a dinner held by the Club at the Royal Hotel, Cardiff, last night. The Guest Speaker was Sir Michael Bishop, Chairman, Airlines of Britain Holdings, British Midland Airways, Deputy Chairman, Channel 4 Television Company, and Director, Airtours plc. Mr Terry R.P. Liddiard Managing *Director, Manx Airlines, presided.*

Meeting

Royal Over-Seas League
Dr John Gittus, Director-General of the British Nuclear Forum, was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Discussion Circle of the Royal Over-Seas League held last night at Over-Seas House, St James's. Mr T.S. Lansley presided.

BARRY GREENWOOD



Out of sight: Dennis Bleakley examines one of the many valuable paintings that have been out of public view for years, stored away in a Lancashire town hall since being given to the council by local people

Paintings worth £2.5m are hidden in town hall

By Alison Roberts

A TREASURE trove of paintings, stored out of sight in a small town hall in *Lancashire, has been valued at £2.5* million. Art experts are calling for the public display of the pictures, which includes work by Johann Fuseli, Charles Lutyens and a collection by the Victorian artist Richard Ansdell. Some of the paintings are in the town hall basement.

The 208 paintings have been given to Fylde council at Lytham St Anne's by local people since the first world war. Most of them, including the Ansdells, were given by Alderman James Herbert Dawson in the 1930s. A valuation, carried out for insurance purposes by a Christie's expert, put the paintings' total value at £2.5 million.

Dennis Bleakley, who looks after the pictures for the council, said that the civic generosity of a past era ought to be repaid by putting the work on public *display. At present the major works,* including a huge Lutyens canvas entitled *The Burnley Meet,* adorn the council halls, but public access is difficult. Mr Bleakley said: "We are custodians of these pictures on behalf of the local people. But we have not got the space or the money to hang the paintings and pay for the security and upkeep. We are reasonably happy with the condition of the paintings, although there is room for improvement."

John Murdoch, Victorian art expert at the Victoria and Albert Museum, said that the "opportunity to see such a large number of works which have not been seen by historians of British art for many years would be extremely interesting".

Ansdell, a member of the flourishing Victorian artistic scene in the British *regions, is known best for his animal* paintings. He was elected to the Royal Academy in 1870 and lived in Lytham from 1861 until his death in 1885.

Richard Roundell of Christie's, said: "There are some of the best Richard Ansdells in this collection. In my view they should be displayed for the public. There are also a certain number of national museum quality paintings in this collection, and the Fuseli would be one."

Margaret Race, Alderman Dawson's granddaughter, said: "It's a tragedy. The pictures were given many years ago and nothing has been done."

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N.A. Beagley and Miss L.E. Fleming-Brown
The engagement is announced between Nicholas Ashley, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Beagley, of Farnham, Surrey, and Liisa Elmi, younger daughter of Mr David Fleming-Brown, of Harkstead, Suffolk, and of the late Mrs Anneli Fleming-Brown.

Mr L.E. Olrik and Miss M. Falkingham
The engagement is announced between Lars Elias, eldest son of Mr Jacob Olrik and Mrs Eva Truelsen, of Copenhagen, Denmark, and Melanie, youngest daughter of Mr Bruce Falkingham, of Selby, North Yorkshire, and Mrs Barbara Falkingham, of North Ferriby, North Humberside.

Mr J. Paul and the Hon Laura Coke
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, elder son of Mr Alastair Paul, of Edinburgh, and Mrs Jonathan Woollatt, of Honiton, Devon, and Laura, daughter of Viscount Coke, of Holkham, and Valeria, Viscountess Coke, of Burnham Norton, Norfolk.

Mr R.J. Hoare and Miss J.G.A. Donohue
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Wing Commander and Mrs C.F. Hoare, of Vine Cottage, Ewshott, Hampshire, and Jennifer, daughter of Mr and Mrs W.T.P. Donohue, of Marlborough, Wiltshire.

Mr N.M.D. Holdgate and Miss K.Y.M. Taylor
The engagement is announced between David, son of Elizabeth and Martin Holdgate, of Gingins, Switzerland, and Cambridge, and Karyn, elder daughter of Helen and George Taylor, of North Berwick (formerly Glasgow).

Marriages

Mr J.J. Hosking and Miss E.A. Karslake
The marriage took place quietly in London, on March 17, between Jeremy Hosking, son of Mr and Mrs R. Hosking, and Elizabeth Karslake, daughter of the late Major I. Karslake and of Mrs P. Karslake.

Mr E.G. von Weyhausen and Miss K.M. Finsaas
The marriage took place on Thursday, at the Schönstatt Chapel, Constantia, Cape Town, of Mr Ernst von Weyhausen, only son of the late Mr Ernst von Weyhausen and of Mrs Ernst von Weyhausen, of Cranborne, Dorset, and Miss Karen Finsaas, only daughter of the late Mr Torgeir Finsaas and of Mrs Torgeir Finsaas, of Tvedestrand, Norway and Sandwich, Kent. The Rev Father David Musgrave officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her brother, Dr T. John Finsaas, was attended by Miss Sarah Jessel and Bryony Finsaas. Mr Robin Hardie was best man.

A reception was held at Ellerman House and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

University news

Glasgow
The following have been promoted to the rank of Titular Professor:
Dr Ian Ford, statistics; Dr J Gordon Lindsay, biochemistry; Dr Gordon D.O. Lowe, Medicine (Royal Infirmary of Glasgow); Dr Eileen A. Millar, Italian; Dr Andrew S. Nash, veterinary medicine; Dr Hugh G. Nimmo, biochemistry; Dr Stephen J. Pride, mathematics; Mr Patrick Reilly, English literature; Dr William P. Saunders, adult dental care; Dr Alan G.R. Smith, modern history; Dr Colin R. Stanley, electronics and electrical engineering; Dr Philip Wadler, computing science.

The following have been appointed Honorary Professors in the Faculty of Medicine:
Mr J. Andrew Bradley, consultant surgeon, Western Infirmary; Dr John M.C. Connell, senior clinical scientist, MRC Blood Pressure Unit and honorary consultant physician, Western Infirmary; Dr Stuart Gatehouse, scientist in charge, MRC Institute of hearing Research, Southern General Hospital.

The following heads of associated institutions have been appointed honorary professors:
Mr Dugald Cameron, director, Glasgow School of Art; Dr Philip Ledger, principal, Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama; Mr Bartholomew J. McGettrick, principal, St Andrew's College.

The following has been appointed visiting professor for three years:
Professor Efim L. Portnoi, head of the integrated optics group, A.F. Ioffe Physico-Technical Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St Petersburg.

Mr Michael Kirkwood to the Chair of Slavonic Languages and Literature. Mr Kirkwood is currently Reader in Russian Studies and Chairman of the Department of Russian Language and Literature at the University of London's School of Slavonic and East European Studies.

Strathclyde
The following to receive honorary degrees next month:
Doctor of the University: Lord Stockton, president of Macmillan publishers; Professor Edward Wragg, Director of Exeter University School of Education; Professor Francine Vaniscotte, educationalist.
Doctor of Science: Professor Kenneth Calman, chief medical officer.
Doctor of Letters: Magnus Magnusson, writer and broadcaster.

Leicester
Dr Kenneth Edwards, Vice-Chancellor of the university, has been elected Chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals. He will succeed Dr David Harrison on August 1. Dr Edwards, the first chairman to be elected by the enlarged committee, is the university's fourth vice-chancellor. All of his predecessors were elected chairmen of the committee.

Hertfordshire
Mr Howard Burrell, currently Reader in Music, to be the university's Professor of Music.

Latest wills

Sir Kenneth Cavendish **Christofas**, of Eastbourne, East Sussex, former director-general of the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers of the European Communities, a leading member of the diplomatic team which engineered *British entry into Europe 20 years* ago, left estate valued at £217,784 net.

Sir John Francis **Compton Miller**, of London EC4, former senior registrar of the Family Division, left estate valued at £27,074 net.

Baroness Felicity Jane **Ewart-Biggs**, of London W8, Opposition Whip in the House of Lords, whose husband Christopher Ewart-Biggs was murdered in 1976 by the IRA when British Ambassador in Dublin, left estate valued at £567,602 net.

Lady Jewell **Magnus-Allcroft**, of Stokesay Court, Onibury, Salop, chatelaine of Stokesay Court, the Victorian family seat of her father's family the Allcrofts, a Midland *glove-making dynasty, and widow* of Sir Philip Magnus-Allcroft, 2nd Bart, left estate valued at £4,786,893 net. She left £500 to St Michael's Church, Onibury.

Mr Kenneth Roland **Taylor**, of Newport, Gwent, late chartered accountant and chairman of IMI Stanton, and former High Sheriff of Monmouthshire and chairman of Newport Magistrates, left estate valued at £398,023 net. He left £1,000 to Newport Golf Club.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Maimonides, philosopher and physician, Cordoba, Spain, 1135; Sir Henry Wotton, poet and diplomat, Boughton Malherbe, Kent, 1568; Jethro Tull, agricultural writer, Basildon, Berkshire, baptised this day, 1674; Francesco de Goya, painter, *Fuendetodos, Spain, 1746;* Charles Booth, shipowner and sociologist, Liverpool, 1840; Paul Verlaine, poet, Metz, France, 1844; Don Carlos, pretender to the Spanish throne, Ljubljana, 1848; Vincent van Gogh, painter, Zundert, The Netherlands, 1853; Sean O'Casey, dramatist, Dublin, 1880; Melanie Klein, psychoanalyst, Austria, 1882.

DEATHS: Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban, military engineer, Paris, 1707; William Hunter, obstetrician and medical writer, London, 1783; George (Beau) Brummell, dandy, Caen, France, 1840; Rudolph Steiner, scientist and founder of anthroposophy, Dornach, Switzerland, 1925; Leonard Raven-Hill, artist and cartoonist, Ryde, Isle of Wight, 1942; Léon Blum, Premier of France 1936-37, Jouy-en-Josas, *1950;* James Cagney, actor, New York State, 1986.

Airey Neave, MP, was killed by a terrorist bomb in the House of Commons car park, 1979.

Americans Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were found guilty of passing atomic secrets to the Russians and sentenced to death, 1951.

John Hinkley III shot and wounded President Ronald Reagan, Washington, 1981.

TEL: 071 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313

This is the nation who did not obey the Lord their God or accept correction. Truth has perished; it is heard no more on their lips.
Jeremiah 7:28

BIRTHS

AHERN - On March 29th, to Philippa (née Rose) and Tim, a son, Hector Aloysius, a brother for Archie, Bertie (Roberta) and Fred.

BIRKBECK - On Monday 22nd March, to Davina (née Copley) and Anto, a daughter, Beth.

BISHOP - On 29th March, to Jane (née Nelmes) and Charles, a son, Thomas Richard Chilton, a brother for Rosanna.

BOARDMAN - On March 26th, to Julia (née Carrick) and Christopher, a daughter, Arabella Kate Wasteneys.

BUTLER - On March 25th, to Jo (née Booth) and David, a son, William James.

COLLINS - On March 25th, to Tim and Deborah (née Hathaway), a son, Patrick John Francis.

COMFORT - On March 26th, to Catherine (née Holland) and Philip, a daughter, Anna Louise.

CROSS - On March 27th in Poole, to Elaine and Richer, a son, Toby Charles John, a brother for Laura and Aidan.

EDWARDS - On March 24th, to Carol (née Hewson) and Gareth, a son, Christopher.

ENGLAND - On 26th March, to Claire (née Cox) and Edward, a daughter, Chloe, a sister for Alexander.

FRASER - On March 14th, to Nicolette (née Le Pelley) and Maurice, a son, Constantine.

FRELICK - on 26th March to Gary and Nicola a son George Alexander.

GARTHWAITE - On March 26th, to Camilla and Charles, a daughter, Emily Joanna, a sister for Charlotte.

HENRIE - On March 26th at The Portland Hospital, to Leslie Wilcott-Henrie and Hunt Henrie, a son, Conor Benneich Henrie, a brother for Alex.

LAMBTON - On March 27th, in Edinburgh, to Julie (née Morrice) and Christopher, a son, Alexander Maurice.

LARK - On March 26th, to Pippa (née Gooch) and Graham, a son, Christopher, a brother for Katie and Nicola.

MARTIN - Sarah and Barry are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Jessica at Queen Charlotte's Hospital on Monday 29th March at 11 am.

MUIR BEDDALL - On March 26th at The Lindo Wing Paddington, to Caroline, wife of Alastair, a son.

NORTH - On March 21st, to Lindsay (née Panes) and Christopher, a daughter, Sophie Elizabeth.

PEARSON - On 23rd March, to Melanie and Dominic, a son, Douglas Benjamin John, a brother for Henrietta and Amabel.

POWYS MAURICE - On March 24th, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Hammersmith, to Joanna (née Gray) and Simon, a daughter, Katherine Marysia, a sister for Emma.

REEVE - On 23rd March, to Alison (née Winterbottom) and Robert, a lovely *daughter, Zoë Victoria* Collinson.

RYAN - On 25th March at The Portland Hospital, London, a beautiful daughter, Josepha Catraoine, a sister to Padraic.

SEELEY - On March 25th 1993, to Claire (née Jennings) and Michael, a daughter, Julia Poppy, a sister for Olivia.

SHAWCROSS - On March 27th, to Alison (née Gunnell) and Christopher, a son, Alistair James Hugh, a brother for Harriet, Charles and Emily.

SIMMONDS - On 8th March in Hong Kong, to Michael and Lucy (née Tyndall) a daughter, Imogen Cartina, a *sister for Freddie.*

SKLAR - On March 23rd at the Wellington Hospital, to Anne and Robert, a daughter, Julia Hannah, a sister for Sarah.

THURSTON - On March 17th 1993 at Princess Margaret Hospital, Windsor, to Elizabeth (née Richardson) and Robin, a son, Richard Nicholas James, a brother for Edward and Amelia.

WHITELEY - On March 27th at Princess Margaret Hospital, Windsor, to Janet (née Philp) and Stewart Lindsay Whiteley of Ascot and Damascus, a son, Struan Robert, a brother for Andrew.

DEATHS

ALDRED - On 28th March peacefully at Moreton Hospital, Patricia aged 78, sister of Mary Stevenson and daughter of the late Geoffrey and Molly Aldred. Funeral Service at St James's Church, Chipping Campden, on *Friday April 2nd* at 2.15pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only.

ALLEN-BUCKLEY - M.B.E. On March 27th 1993 peacefully, Bianaid aged 90 years, *beloved mother of Ulic and grandmother* of Catharine, Oonagh, Michael, Nuala and Grainne and a devoted great-grandmother. Funeral Service on Thursday April 1st at Our Lady Help of Christians R.C. Church, West Byfleet at 10 am. Flowers or enquiries to G. Boutell & Son tel: (0932) 346037.

BAKER - On 24th March 1993, Earl, much loved by Roscleen and father of Andrea, Grant and David. Will be greatly missed by all.

BATTCOCK - On 26th March 1993 in Royal Free Hospital, Roy Dingwall aged 85 years. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium on Monday 5th April at 3 pm. Flowers to J.H. Kenyon, 9 Pond Street, Hampstead, NW3.

BOLTON - On March 29th 1993, suddenly and peacefully, Pelham in his 90th year. Beloved husband of the late Betty. Much loved father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Service at Holy Trinity Church, Bramley, near Guildford, on Friday April 2nd at 3.15 pm, *followed by private* cremation. Family flowers only please but if desired donations for the Royal Surrey County Hospital may be sent together with any enquiries to Robert Ayling Funeral Services, 25 South Road, Guildford, Surrey. (0483) 67333.

BUCKMASTER - On March 28th in Winchester, Helen, widow of Canon J.M. Buckmaster, beloved mother of Christopher and the late Michael. Requiem Mass at Holy Trinity Church, Winchester, on Friday April 2nd at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, for Holy Trinity Church to Jno. Steel & Son, Chesil House, Winchester.

BURNESS - Ethel Mary. Peacefully on 26th March at Downing House Nursing Home, Ipswich, in her 103rd year. A most remarkable lady. Funeral at St Andrew's Church, Melton, on Friday 2nd April at 12 noon, and afterwards at Melton Grange Hotel. At her request no flowers or letters, but donations for The British Red Cross to E.B. Buttons of Woodbridge.

BURROUGH - (née Walker) Mary (Mollie). Peacefully at John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, Saturday March 27th. Widow of Rev. J.W. (Jack) Burrough M.A. Much loved by many. Funeral St Michael's, Summertown, Oxford, Friday April 2nd, 3.30 pm. Family flowers only, donations to Cancer Research.

BURTON - On March 24th suddenly, The Reverend John Harold Stanley aged 80, sadly missed by all his family. Funeral at St James Church, Sussex Gardens, London W2, on Monday April 5th at 11 am followed by private cremation. Cut flowers suitable for hospitals, no letters, enquiries to J.H. Kenyon Ltd., tel: (071) 229-3810.

BURTON - Alan John Howard, peacefully on March 28th 1993. Sadly missed by Pam, Helen, Michael, Neil and Jill. Funeral Service at Golders Green Crematorium at 2.15pm on Thursday.

CAMERON - Norman Alister aged 79. Husband of Doris, father of John and Peter, died peacefully at home in Chiswell Green, St Albans, on Saturday 27th March after a very long illness. The funeral will take place at Garston Crematorium at 1.30 pm on Friday 2nd April. Family flowers only, donations if desired by cheque to The Runcie Appeal for a MacMillan Cancer Care Centre c/o Nethercott Funeral Directors, 150 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire.

CHILD - On 25th March, Eileen, suddenly but peacefully at Epsom Hospital, widow of Sidney, dearly loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, Friday 2nd April 10.30 am. No flowers, but donations to *C.C.U. at Epsom Hospital.*

CONN - On 27th March, Professor J.F.C. Conn D.Sc., dear husband of Doris, father of Alistair and Margaret, peacefully in hospital aged 89.

CROSLEY - Suddenly at home, Blodwen Vita Melville. For many years resident of Newick, Sussex. Funeral at Fletching Church, Fletching, Sussex, on Wednesday March 31st at 2pm. Enquiries to R.A. Brooks & Son, Newick, tel: (0825) 722895 or (0444) 454391.

DAVEY - On 28th March at Crantock, Newquay, Mark Henry, dearly loved brother of Joan De Mierre, sadly missed by his many friends. Funeral private, no flowers or letters please. Donations if desired to Crantock Church Bell Tower Appeal, c/o Henwood & Sons, Pargolla Road, Newquay.

ESCRITT - On March 26th 1993, aged 99 years, Major General Frederick Knowles Escritt C.B., O.B.E., Q.H.S., late R.A.M.C., cheerful and courageous to the end. Darling husband of Elsa, loved by daughter Susan and family. Funeral at St Michael and All Angels Church, Bampton, Devon, on Monday April 5th at 2.30 pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, donations if desired for The Order of St John may be sent to Messrs E. White and Son Ltd., Funeral Directors, 138/139 East Reach, Taunton, TA1 3HN.

FABIN - On March 29th 1993, Greta Blades, widow of Brigadier Douglas Fabin, peacefully after a long illness. Funeral at St Kenelm Church, Sapperton, near Cirencester, at 3 pm on Friday April 2nd.

FFORDE - On 26th March 1993, after many painful years, in Johannesburg, R.S.A. John Patrick Ilbert Fforde, C.B.E. served 31 years in the Colonial Police, Palestine, Sierra Leone, Northern Rhodesia. Survived by The Lady Jean Fforde, son Charles and beloved wife Rosemary. Service at St Michael's Church, Bryanston, Johannesburg, 31st March.

FREMLIN-BAILEY - On 22nd March 1993, Albert Fremlin-Bailey. Son of Ruby Fremlin of Kent and Albert Bailey. French Medal of Honour. Founder of British and Overseas Optical Missions (Accra, Ghana - Jinja, Uganda, and Isuochi, Nigeria). Funeral at St Marks Church, Farnborough, Hampshire, at 12 noon on Wednesday 31st March 1993.

GREENWOOD - On 5th March 1993, (James) Russell, LVO, suddenly in Bangkok, Thailand, on Holiday from Matsusaka, Japan, where he was Professor of Asian Studies at Matsusaka University (formerly H.M. Diplomatic Service). Memorial Service at St Leonard's Church, Padiham, Lancashire, at 3pm on Wednesday 31st March, followed by interment of ashes at Padiham Cemetery. No flowers. He will be greatly missed by his son Martin, friends, colleagues and students in England and Japan.

GRINDLEY - On March 28th 1993 at Arrowe Park Hospital aged 81 years, David Noel Grindley (late of The Sudan Civil Service, 1938-1955 and Liverpool Polytechnic). Funeral Service in Chester Cathedral at 2.30 pm on Friday 2nd April 1993 followed by interment at St Nicholas Church, Burton in Wirral, where he was Church Warden for nine years. Flowers may be sent to Charles Stephens, Clifton House Funeral Home, Rock Ferry, Wirral L42 4QA.

GURNEY - On March 27th Elwyth Merryl, aged 89, wife of Brigadier C.H. Gurney C.B.E., mother and grandmother. Funeral Service at Higham Church at 2.30 pm on Tuesday 30th March. Family flowers only, but donations if desired made payable to Higham P.C.C.

HEDDERWICK - Peacefully at St Raphael's, Edinburgh, on March 28th 1993, aged 97, Ruth Mary, widow of Gerald Hedderwick of Loretto School and daughter of Walter W. Blackie and Anna C. Blackie, The Hill House, Helensburgh. Service at Warriston Crematorium, Cloister Chapel, on Wednesday March 31st, at 1.45 pm.

HOUGHTON - On March 27th 1993, peacefully at home aged 84 years, Albert William John, dearly loved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral Service at St Edith's Church, Pulverbatch, near Shrewsbury, on Wednesday April 7th at 1pm, followed by cremation. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to St Edith's Church and Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. Enquiries please to the Funeral Directors: W.R.R. Pugh & Son, tel: (0743) 344646.

HOULDER - On March 26th, Dr. Charles Alexander of Hutton, the much loved husband of Jessie, father of Christine, Bruce, Ian, Clive, James and Alexander and grandfather of fourteen. The funeral service will take place on Thursday April 1st at St Mary's, Shenfield at 12 noon, followed by committal at Chelmsford Crematorium at 1 pm. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to St Francis Hospice, Havering-Atte-Bower, c/o Bennetts (Brentwood) Ltd., 120 High Street, Brentwood, CM14 4AS.

HOVENDEN - Dr. T. Geoffrey, late of Barnes, London and Earl Soham, Suffolk, died at home in Nottingham on 27th March, aged 86. Much loved husband of Mary, father, father-in-law and grandfather.

HUNTER - On 23rd March, at Rose Hill Nursing Home, Dorking, Eileen Helen (author E.H. Clements) aged 87. Widow of T.S.G. (Jim) Hunter, stepmother of Jennifer, sister of Kathleen, Sibyl and Frank and loved granny and auntie. Funeral 2.30 pm April 2nd at St Martin's, Dorking. No flowers, donations if desired to Imperial Cancer Research or St Martin's c/o Sherlock & Sons, Trellis House, Dorking.

HUNT-LOVELL O.S.B. - Dom Philip Neri, Monk of Prinknash, peacefully at Brookthorpe Nursing Home, Gloucester, aged 90. Funeral at the Abbey 2.30 pm, Thursday 1st April.

KERR - On 27th March, at home, Dorothy, aged 89, Dame of the Sovereign & Military Order of Malta, widow since 1941 of Philip Walter Kerr, Rouge Croix Pursuivant, after much ill health endured with humility and courage. Fortified by the rites of the Holy Catholic Church. Greatly loved by many. Requiem Mass at Brompton Oratory, London SW7, at 11 am on Monday 5th April, followed by private burial. Family flowers only. Donations in her memory may be sent to the Society for the Relief of Distress, of which she was chairman for many years, c/o Bircham & Co., 11 Dean Farrar Street, London SW1H 0DY. Requiescat in pace.

MATTHEWS - Isabel Livingstone McIntyre, in her 93rd year, peacefully at Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy, Fife, on 26th March 1993. Beloved wife of the late James P Matthews, mother of James and John and grandmother of Fiona, Jenny, Steven, Joseph and Andrew. Funeral Service in Crail Parish Church on Thursday 1st April at 9.45am. Interment thereafter to Alexandria Cemetery for 1.15pm. Flowers to Mr McKay, 50 Marketgate, Crail, Fife.

McCALMONT - On March 27th, suddenly, Major Victor Hugh Harry McCalmont M.F.H. of Norelands Stud, County Kilkenny. Beloved father of Peter, Harry and Di. Funeral Ennisnag Church Tuesday 30th March at 2pm. Memorial Service to be announced later.

McNAIR-WILSON - On March 28th 1993, peacefully at home. Michael, beloved husband of Deidre, much loved father of Laura and loving stepfather to his four stepchildren. Funeral private. Family flowers only please but donations to the National Kidney Federation, 6 Stanley Street, Worksop, S81 7HX. Memorial Service to be held at St Nicolas Church, Newbury, date to be announced later.

MILLER - Derek Charles, Vicar of Bodenham, Hope-Under-Dinmore, Preston Wynne and Felton, Herefordshire. Peacefully on Sunday 28th March. Funeral Friday 2nd April 1.30 pm at Hereford Cathedral. Donations in lieu of flowers to Bodenham Parish Church Repair Fund.

MOSS - On March 26th, Joan Mary L.R.A.M., aged 85, of Dunton Green, Sevenoaks. Funeral Service at 10 am on Tuesday April 6th at St Mary's, Riverhead, followed by cremation. No flowers, donations if desired to The Childrens' Society or The Royal National Lifeboat Institution c/o W. Hodges & Co., 89 St John's Hill, Sevenoaks, tel: (0732) 454457.

NEWALL - John Sydney, on March 26th, peacefully in Lausanne, Switzerland, aged 91.

O'HAGAN - On March 28th. Peacefully in hospital, Lucy Margaret (Peggy), aged 89, of The Mansion House, Gainford. Beloved wife of the late Major Claud O'Hagan. Cremation private. Thanksgiving Service after Easter, date to be announced. No letters.

O'TOOLE - Annamae (née Holdren) suddenly in Dublin on 27th March aged 66. Beloved and loving wife of Charlie and mother of Fintan and Sharon. Adored Gangan of James, Jessica, Oliver and Philippa. Funeral Service at the Parish Church of St Matthew's, Bayswater on Monday 5th April at 3.15pm. Flowers welcome, to J.H. Kenyon, 49 Marloes Road, Kensington, London W8; or donations to The Royal National Lifeboat Institute.

PARSONS - On March 27th 1993 at home, Patrick Thomas Templar. Dearly loved husband of Miriam and father of Tim, Nell, Rory and Sophie. Requiem Mass at Our Lady and St Etheldreda R.C. Church, Newmarket, on Wednesday 7th April at 2pm, followed by burial at Chippenham. Family flowers only, but donations if wished to Marie Curie Foundation c/o Southgate of Newmarket, (0638) 662480.

PEACOCK - On March 28th at the Royal Surrey County Hospital peacefully after a short illness, Phyllis Evelyn aged 89, much loved mother of Mary, John and Michael, affectionately known as Noni by all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Funeral at Guildford Crematorium on Monday 5th April at 3 pm. If desired, flowers or donations for R.S.C.H. Nurses Amenity Fund c/o J. Gorringe and Son, 55 Hare Lane, Farncombe, GU7 3EF.

SEMPLE - On March 27th, peacefully in her sleep, Janet, dearly loved wife of Andrew and mother of Robert and Susie. Research Fellow in the Bentham Project, University College, London. The funeral will take place at 1.30 pm on Thursday April 1st at the West Norwood Crematorium, SE27. Family flowers only by request, but donations in Janet's memory may be made if wished to St Christopher's Hospice c/o A. Yeatman & Sons Funeral Directors, 384 Norwood Road, London SE27 9AA (081-670 1127).

SIMONDS - On March 28th 1993, peacefully in hospital, Edward Alec aged 81, Husband of the late Alice (Paddy), much loved father of Robert, Dorothy and Joan and a dearly loved grandfather. Funeral Service at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, on Monday 5th April at 2pm. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to Walton Hospital Nurses Fund, c/o G. Boutell & Son, 50 High Road, Byfleet, Surrey KT14 7QL, tel: (0932) 345037.

SKEENS - On 28th March 1993, Georgina Mary Stuart (née Hallman) at U.C.H. London, aged 65. Widow of John, much loved mother of Hilary, Geraldine, Sue, Nick and Bob, grandmother of Daniel, Thomas, Marc and Lara, sister of Lincoln, John and Lawrence, a memorable character much missed by family and friends. For funeral details call Stammers Funeral Service on (0621) 772415.

STIRLING - On March 27th 1993, after a long illness courageously fought, Henry aged 73 years, beloved husband of Betty and father of Jenny, David and Fifi. Requiem Mass at St Dunstan's Catholic Church, Woking, on Friday April 2nd at 10 am, followed by interment at Sand Cemetery.

STUTTER - On Saturday 27th March at her home at St James's Drive, Jane, loved and loving wife of John for nearly 36 years, mother of Tom, Dan, Josie, Barney and Ollie and a much loved grandmother. Private funeral in Aldeburgh on 1st April. Flowers may be sent to or ordered directly from Tony Brown's Funeral Service, Chantry Road, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 1DJ (0728-603108). Requiem Mass for family and friends on 3rd April at 12 noon at The Church of The Holy Ghost, Nightingale Square, London SW12.

WATSON - On March 24th 1993, at The John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, Dr. Mary Louise Watson, in her 96th year, dear wife of the late Dr. Alec Watson and much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service, 2.30 pm Tuesday April 6th at St Andrew's Parish Church, Chinnor. Enquiries about flowers or donations to Surman & Horwood Funeral Service, Chinnor OX9 7RR, tel: (0844) 351323.

WHITTOME - Suddenly on March 28th 1993, David, aged 70 years, of Ailsworth, Peterborough, beloved husband of Marjorie and dearly loved father of Paul and Julia. Funeral Service Thursday April 1st at Parish Church of St Kyneburgha, Castor at 2 pm followed by burial in churchyard.

WITTON-DAVIES - On 28th March 1993, Carl, at Bicester. Beloved husband, father and grandfather. Requiem funeral at Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford, on Monday 5th April at 12.30 pm. Simple flowers, donations to the Alzheimers Disease Society, Oxfordshire Branch, Library Block, Littlemore Hospital, Oxford OX4 4XN.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

HARDY - Mike, died 30th March 1988. Still much loved and missed. Jan and Alison.

RADFORD - In memory of Margaret Eleanor Radford, late of Romsey, loving mother of Philip and Andrew.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FORBES - Adms. 4.1922, nee Keith, married to naturalist H.O. Forbes, travelled widely S.E. Asia 1880's. Information sought for biographical essay. Fax: 071 823 8075 or write Barlow, 56 Rutland Gate, London, SW7 1PL.

BIRTHDAYS

HOCKEY Vanessa. Thinking of you on this special 21st Birthday. Please get in touch, would love to hear from you. Love you & miss you. Mum & Karen

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OBITUARIES

BARONESS BACON

Baroness Bacon, PC, CBE, who, as Alice Bacon was a Labour MP from 1945 to 1970 and a minister of state in two of Harold Wilson's governments, died on March 24 aged 83. She was born on September 10, 1909.

BARONESS Bacon was the hammer of the Labour left through the years of the Bevanite insurrection and beyond. Her own party credentials were faultless. Her father was leader of the Normanton miners. She was a scholarship girl who by her own efforts became a schoolteacher. She joined the Labour party at 16 and was soon a national figure in the League of Youth. Her speeches at party conferences made her increasingly popular and, at 31, she was elected to the national executive. It was there that Herbert Morrison observed her promise and taught her lessons about party tactics and discipline which remained with her for the rest of her career.

Alice Bacon was born at Normanton where her education began at elementary school and continued at Normanton High School and Stockwell Training College. She returned to teach at Normanton Modern School and took an external degree from London University. Although she had a lifelong interest in education, politics increasingly dominated her life and she was chosen as prospective candidate for Leeds North East. War intervened, however, and she had to wait six years before she was elected to the Commons. She captured the seat from the Conservatives in 1945, turning a majority of more than 11,000 into a Labour majority of 8,464. She held the seat until the redistribution of 1955 when she became the member for the city's South East constituency.

She always regarded the Attlee government as the high-watermark of socialist achievement and it was in those years that her all-pervading loyalty to party was forged. On the national executive she joined Edith Summerskill to fight what they regarded as extremism in the party, then taking shape in the infant "Keep Left" movement. As Morrison's influence waned her loyalty was transferred to Hugh Gaitskell. Leeds became a Gaitskellite stronghold and she never really recovered all her political certainty after his death, though her dedication to party remained.

She was always more significant in party circles than in the Commons, where she was outshone by personalities such as Jennie Lee and Barbara Castle. Her own contribution was based on her industry and her faithfulness to the leadership. She became party chairman in 1950 and



presided at the 1951 Scarborough conference where the Left made big gains.

By the following year, at the Morecambe conference, the Bevanites made almost a complete sweep of the constituency section of the national executive. Alice Bacon, buoyed by the hope that Gaitskell would soon succeed Attlee, proved one of their most effective opponents.

It was in the 1950s and early 1960s that she gained her reputation as a leading left-baiter. At one point she appeared to be on the move constantly through the constituencies with Ray Gunter and Sara Barker, the national agent, smoking out heresy and recommending expulsions. When the Bevanites lost their impetus, she turned her attack on the traditional enemies of the party — the Communists and the Trotskyists. She resented her reputation as an inquisitor, however, and when she was attacked in turn by Tribune she offered her resignation from the organisation sub-committee, though she speedily withdrew it. That committee was only one of many to which she gave her time on the national executive. One of her more prominent roles was as chairman of the publicity and political sub-committee, to which she was appointed in 1956 in order to prepare for the next general election.

With Gaitskell's death and Harold Wilson's succession to the leadership she assumed that any chance of office had disappeared but when Labour won the 1964 election Wilson, always anxious to balance the forces in his party, appointed her first as Minister of State at the Home Office and then as Minister of State at the Department of Education and Science. She was not an entirely convinced Wilsonite though, and when he tried to appoint the left-wing Tony Greenwood as general secretary she used all her old skills to make certain that the post went to the trade unionist Harry Nicholas.

She realised that she was unlikely to rise above minister of state level and in 1970, although only 60, she resigned from both the Commons and the national executive. One reason for her resignation was devotion to an aunt who needed care — and unmarried women of Alice Bacon's generation knew where their family duty lay.

In the Lords she had the unusual experience of making her maiden speech in 1970 from the very bench where she made her first Commons speech. In 1945, with the Commons chamber still unusable through bombing, the Lower House used the Lords for its meetings. She proved to be as industrious and diligent a member of the Lords as she was in the Commons and spoke on the subjects which had dominated her life — education, domestic affairs and her native Yorkshire.

She never married, though for many years she was the inseparable companion in the Commons of E. P. "Staccy" Stackpole, the chief political correspondent of the Press Association. There never seemed any question of their marrying but their friendship was as deep as it was public.

DESMOND NELIGAN

Desmond West Edmund Neligan, OBE, National Insurance commissioner, 1961-76, died on March 20 aged 86. He was born on June 20, 1906.



A TEENAGE generation looked anxiously in the direction of Desmond Neligan in the 1950s when, as umpire under the National Service Acts, he sat in judgment over Britain's reluctant heroes. Those hoping to "dodge the draft" or defer call-up, had their cases heard first by local tribunals, but they then had the right of appeal to Desmond Neligan.

Arguments ranged from the poignant to the picturesque. One boy applied for exemption from his national service because his father had just murdered his mother, leaving him with five younger brothers and sisters to look after. Neligan, a deeply humane man, promptly agreed.

He was less sympathetic, however, to The Mudlarks pop group, one of whose components pleaded his case on the ground that his two years serving Queen and country would do irreparable damage to their ensemble. "Tough luck" commented Neligan turning him down.

Neligan held the position until it was scrapped in 1961 with the ending of national service. He then became a National Insurance commissioner, retiring in 1976.

Neligan was born in New Zealand, where his Irish father was the Anglican Bishop of Auckland. The family was sensitive over the spelling of their name with one "L", as Dublin's "Nelligans" were predominantly Roman Catholic.

When Desmond was only four, however, poor health forced his father to retire early from his bishopric and seek the quieter pastures of an English parish. Desmond went to Bradfield College, and Jesus College, Cambridge, where he read agriculture. After working in the cotton growing industry of Sudan he set up as a market gardener in Sussex.

When this did not work out he turned to the law, being called to the Bar at the Middle Temple in his absence during the war. Turned down for a front-line British regiment on account of his age, Neligan joined a unit of New Zealand expatriates in Britain. He subsequently fought with the NZ 2nd Division through Greece, Crete and the Western Desert, rising to the rank of major in the infantry.

He practised at the London Bar after the war, specialising mainly in town and country planning and landlord and tenant cases.

But those were difficult times for a not-so-young advocate and Neligan began assembling a portfolio of more lucrative part-time legal appointments. He was made deputy recorder of Croydon, as well as national service umpire and a deputy National Insurance Commissioner, but gave them up on becoming a full-time commissioner in 1961.

He also produced a number of publications, some of which were to become standard works of reference. These included the 6th, 7th and 8th editions of *Dumsday's Parish Councils Handbook* and works on the Town and Country Planning Acts of 1944 and 1947 on which he collaborated with the head of his chambers Sir Archibald Safford, QC. Three years after retiring, he published *Social Security Case Law: a Digest of Commissioners' Decisions* and followed this up in 1984 with something completely different, *Lawful Lyrics and Cautionary Tales for Lawyers*.

A well-liked, humorous man who was affected by the moving cases which he heard — including many involving that occupational disease of miners pneumoconiosis — Neligan was an active sportsman in his youth. He hunted before the war, played tennis, was a fine cricketer and an even better hockey player who represented Sussex.

His first marriage, to Penelope Ann, daughter of Henry Mason, was dissolved in 1946, and he married, in 1947, Margaret, daughter of Captain Snook, RN. He is survived by her, two sons of his first marriage and a step-daughter from his second.

CECIL PEPPER



Pepper, left, and Keith Miller going out to bat for Australia in the fourth "Victory" Test of 1945

Cecil 'Cec' Pepper, Australian cricketer and umpire, died in Littleborough, near Rochdale, on March 22 aged 74. He was born in Forbes, Australia, on September 15, 1918.

CEC PEPPER, a forthright Australian who spent the best part of his life in Rochdale, was as renowned for his flamboyant actions and language as he was for his ability as a cricketer. An all-rounder and later a notable umpire, he courted controversy with leading figures in the game all his life.

At a dinner to celebrate the centenary of the Central Lancashire League last year, Pepper was described by Sir Colin Cowdrey, chairman of the International Cricket Council, as the finest cricketer not to be capped by Australia. His talents as a leg-break and googly bowler and a hard-hitting batsman were mostly displayed not in New South Wales but in the Lancashire Leagues, where he played as a professional for twenty years. He broke various records, ran a coaching school and was said in Rochdale "to offer revelations in the psychology of language."

Pepper himself believed the reason that he never played for Australia had much to do with a contretemps with Sir Donald Bradman, a cricketer of the highest stature and influence. In a match in Adelaide in 1946, Pepper reckoned he had Bradman plumb lbw with successive balls, and caught at the wicket off a third. The umpire turned down each appeal, where upon Pepper told the batsman exactly what he thought of him and his cricket. Australia's Board of Control demanded a written apology, which Pepper refused to give. He signed, instead, a three-year contract to become Rochdale's professional, leaving for England that same year. He never lived in Australia again.

As a Services cricketer, Pepper had taken part in the Victory Series in England in 1945, as had Lindsay Hassett and Keith Miller. Both became prominent Australian cricketers, as Pepper might well have done. Six years before the Services matches he had impressed spectators with the violence of his strokeplay, and as a spin bowler he developed a wonderful "flipper", whereby the ball came out of the bulky part of his hand and snaked back into the batsman from outside off stump. It was often beyond the capabilities of batsmen of League standard and, indeed, sometimes baffled umpires when they had to make an lbw decision. Pepper would exhaust his vocabulary in such circumstances to anyone who remained listening. In 44 first-class matches for New South Wales, Pepper scored 1,927 runs at an average of 29.64 and took 171 wickets at 29.35.

In the Central Lancashire League, Pepper became the first cricketer to do the "double" of 1,000 runs and 100 wickets twice. He helped Rochdale win the championship for the first time for 21 years, although his behaviour continued to leave something to be desired. He was reprimanded by League officials for tweaking the nose of a Radcliffe member on the steps of the pavilion. After he joined Burnley in 1949, he became the first player to score 1,000 runs and take 100 wickets in the Lancashire League. He also played for Radcliffe, Oldham and Royton, on one occasion striking 38 off an eight-ball over.

Pepper turned down offers to play county cricket in England before he became an umpire in 1964. He was to remain on the first-class list for 16 years before he resigned on account of disagreeing with the system of appointing officials for major matches. In his first season as an umpire he became embroiled in the throwing controversy, which was rarely dormant during the 1960s. Pepper wrote to MCC to say that he would have had no hesitation in no-balling Charlie Griffith, the West Indian fast bowler, had the match in question not been exhibition cricket. A copy of his confidential letter and the reply from MCC, condoning his lack of action, were allegedly stolen from Pepper's briefcase eight months later and leaked to the *Daily Mail*.

The revelation rocked confidence in MCC, which had attempted to eradicate throwing and was now accused of a cover-up to protect Griffith. Had Pepper or any other umpire called him for throwing, the wrangling that affected Australia's tour of West Indies in 1965-6 would not have occurred.

After Pepper resigned from the umpire's list in 1979 he ran a packing business and a polythene extruding plant in Birkenhead. He continued to live in Rochdale.

REUBEN FINE

Reuben Fine, a chess player of genius who beat all the leading players of his day but never succeeded in winning the world championship, died in New York on March 26 aged 78. He was born in New York on October 11, 1914.



ECONOMICS rather than defeat at the board forced the retirement of Reuben Fine from international chess. He was 24 and at the height of his powers, when he played and won his last major tournament in 1938. But there was no money in chess in those days, and Fine had a wife and family to support.

When the outbreak of the second world war in 1939 brought international chess to a temporary halt, Fine decided to switch careers and became a psychoanalyst instead. In the preceding six years, after he first came to prominence at the age of 18 by forcing a draw against the redoubtable Alexander Alekhine at a tournament in Pasadena, California, nothing seemed more certain than that Fine would one day be world champion.

In 1935, at Hastings, he won an international tournament without losing a game. The following year in Nottingham, facing opponents who included Alekhine and Capablanca, he shared second place with Samuel Reshevsky.

In all, Fine took first place in eight of the 13 international tournaments in which he participated, tied for second in most of the others, and was ranked among the six strongest players in the world.

Then came his final match: the AVRO tournament in Holland of 1938, set up to decide who should challenge Alekhine for the world championship. Competing against some of the strongest players ever assembled, including Reshevsky, Salo Flohr, Paul Keres, Max Euwe, Capablanca and Alekhine himself, Fine shared first place with Keres of Estonia. But Keres was given the title on a tie-break system, and Fine never did get to play for the championship.

Fine came from a poor family in the Bronx and learnt the chess moves from his uncle at the age of eight. He liked to recall in later years that he had never read a chess book until he became a master. But he spent several hours a day during his adolescence playing "rapid" chess, in which a move has to be made every ten seconds. It was a form of the game which imbued him with a sharp tactical sense and a gift for counter-attack that characterised his later career.

He carried his knowledge of chess into his work as a psychologist, writing a number of successful books on both subjects in the years after his retirement from the game. A Freudian, he wrote of the game's phallic symbolism, concluding that it was an outlet for hostile feelings in which a player sees his opponent's King as his own absent or weak father, and tries to kill him by checkmate. He saw the chessboard as a whole as symbolising the family situation.

Fine's chess books were written in clear and lively prose, and his *Basic Chess Endings*, published in 1941, is still considered a classic. He also wrote *The Ideas Behind the Openings* and *The Middle Game in Chess* (1942), and was responsible for a brilliant revision of the seventh edition of *Modern Chess Openings*.

In many ways Fine's career mirrored that of Bobby Fischer, who also retired at his peak in 1972. But Fischer had first made his point by becoming world champion; Fine was destined to remain one of the great what-ifs of the chess world.

Married five times, the first four unions ending in divorce, Fine is survived by his wife, Marcia, one son and one daughter.

THE DECIMAL SYSTEM

MR. DILKE rose to move that, in the opinion of the House, the introduction of a decimal system of coinage, weights and measures ought not to be longer delayed.

The hon. member said that in this country social questions were almost always postponed to political questions, as the latter involved few private interests, but stimulated party spirit. The motion he was proposing was essentially not a party one, and had on many occasions been supported by Conservatives and Liberals alike. The question had been before the country for many years, and in 1863, when Lord Palmerston was Prime Minister, and opposed a similar resolution, he was defeated. The question was first raised, in 1824, when a commission of inquiry was appointed, in which Mr Spring Rice, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, and afterwards Lord Monteagle, took part . . .

The Commission which had reported on this subject had reported practically in favour of this system, and it was a great comfort to its advocates to think that the coinage of this country might be easily changed into the decimal system with little inconvenience. The pound sterling would be retained as the unit, the florin would be retained, and the farthing, which was the 960th of a pound, would be the 1,000th, instead. This change, it would be admitted, would be an exceedingly slight one, and it would not interfere with the halfcrown, which was a useful and handsome coin. The balance on the whole, would not be against the poorer class. He did not wish to see any class robbed as against another class, but in the change proposed the loss would fall, not on the consumer, but on the dealer. He thought the decimal coinage had now arrived at a distinct, crystallised stare. The whole of the evidence collected on this subject was distinctly in favour of one course, and that course he proposed to adopt if the House, approved of his motion. The proposal was that a Bill should be introduced dealing with the subject next Session. With regard to the system of weights and measures, there was a great diversity of opinion. The more radical course was the proposed adoption of the metric system pure and simple as it exists nearly over the whole of Europe. This would immensely facilitate commercial transactions with every country in Europe. There was the half and half system recommended by gentlemen of considerable experience and by a commission which was appointed. This system proposed the retention of the yard, but the introduction of a measure of 100 yards in place of the present inconvenient mile, which was 1,760 yards. It also proposed to do away with the 60 or more measures of corn in use in different parts of the country at the present moment. He proposed to abolish all these and to introduce the measure now in use in Liverpool. He pointed out that, while the metric system might be learnt by children in nine months, the present system required two years and 10 months. It might be said that the common people would have a difficulty in learning that system, but it must be remembered that education had made and was still making rapid advances in this country.

ON THIS DAY

March 30 1881

Ninety years later, on February 15 1971, our coinage was decimalised, but we still fight shy of going all metric. Beer is sold by the pint, a loaf by the gram; at Twickenham the pitch is marked out in metres, on the M2 the route is in miles.

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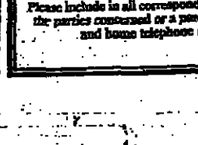
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NEWS

Britain gets tough in 'fish war'

■ Britain adopted a tougher stance in the dispute over fishing rights yesterday, warning Paris that further hostile acts by French trawlermen against the Royal Navy would not be tolerated.

Bernard Dorin, the French ambassador to London was summoned to the Foreign Office to be rebuked by Tristan Garel-Jones, the minister for Europe, for lack of action by French forces in control of their fishermen. M Dorin promised immediate action to restore order... **Pages 1, 2, 16**

Heseltine holds off coal rebellion

■ British Coal would do all in its power to seize the "significant new market" available to it, Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, promised last night in an attempt to contain a Tory rebellion ..... **Pages 1, 9, 21**

Mystery killing

Jean Bradley, 47, a former Queen's Flight stewardess and businesswoman, was stabbed to death in an apprently motiveless attack on a London street, Scotland Yard detectives said yesterday..... **Page 1**

Slanted poll

The emergency session of Russia's parliament ended yesterday without closing the constitutional and political chasm between it and President Yeltsin: deputies voted in favour of a referendum with questions slanted against reforms ..... **Pages 1, 12**

IRA man guilty

An Old Bailey jury found Paul Magee, 45, a ruthless IRA killer wanted by British security forces since 1981, guilty of the cold-blooded murder of special constable Glen Goodman. He will be sentenced today.... **Pages 1, 3**

Safer cots

After a national campaign to persuade parents to put their babies to sleep on their backs, cot deaths more than halved in the first nine months of last year and specialists hope for similar benificial effects on other childhood ailments **Pages 10, 15, 17**

Pickets halted

Militant supporters and Socialist Workers Party members heading by bus for the picket line outside the Timex electronics factory in Dundee, were stopped twice by police and prevented from reaching the factory until new workers, recruited to replace sacked strikers, were safely inside ..... **Page 5**

Rescue convoy

More than 2,000 refugees, mostly women and children weary after 11 months of siege in Srebrenica, were carried to safety by a UN convoy of 19 lorries last night ..... **Page 12**

Trade truce

American and European community negotiators stopped short of an immediate transatlantic trade war in resumed meetings yesterday but showed few signs that issues in dispute were close to solution..... **Page 11**

Costly justice

A lengthy crown court trial brought over non-payment of 12 parking tickets worth £144 has cost police and the Crown Prosecution Service an estimated £200,000 ..... **Page 10**

Mafia forecast

Lord Tebbit told a conference on the impact of Maastricht on the City that ratification would mean that public life would be at the risk of the same kind of Mafia corruption now inflicting Italy..... **Page 9**

Rainbow's end

Brown trout anglers have been awarded £10,000 damages by a Swindon court against trout farm owners whom they had accused of ruining their sport by allowing shoals of rainbow trout to flood the river ..... **Page 7**

Passing the heavy breathing test

■ A group of male doctors on an expedition up Mount Everest will be looking to women to help them to pass the heavy breathing test: doses of the female hormone, progesterone, are expected to increase their breathing rate enabling them to adapt more quickly to high altitude and ward off mountain sickness..... **Page 10**



Ordeal over: a woman visitor from New York is rescued from the rubble of a collapsed Glasgow tenement. **Page 2**

BUSINESS

Loan warning: Mortgage rates could rise later this year because building societies face funding difficulties as a result of tough competition from National Savings and the First Option Bond..... **Page 21**

Power struggle: Power firms confirmed completion of contracts to burn British coal as 4,000 miners marched through London ahead of the coal debate..... **Page 21**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index of leading shares closed 6.4 down at 2,846.5, recovering from an earlier fall of almost 20 points. The pound fell .35 cents to $1.4882 and .51 pfennigs to DM2.4276 but was unchanged at 79.3 on the trade-weighted index..... **Page 24**

SPORT

Cricket: John Woodcock finds Pakistan's feared fast bowlers, Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, struggling to make an impact on their tour of the West Indies..... **Page 38**

Football: Vinnie Jones of Wimbledon was banned indefinitely by the Football Association after he failed to attend a displinary hearing. He arrived late at the FA's headquarters and will now have to return, probably next week, to appear before another hearing ..... **Page 40**

Motor racing: Britain's Damon Hill believes that his second place in the Brazilian grand prix behind Ayrton Senna has silenced his critics and made him a better driver..... **Page 36**

Enfant terrible: Yael Dayan, novelist, feminist, agitator and daughter of Israel's most famous war hero, has become the country's most controversial politician ..... **Page 14**

Vicious circle: "The way to silence the chattering classes is to set them a quadratic equation — and that includes several Oxford economists." Margot Norman on why Britain can't add up ..... **Page 14**

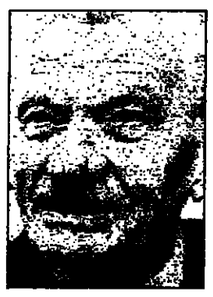
Medical row: Geneticists can now tell parents their children will be mentally handicapped or suffer a lingering death. The question, Aileen Ballantyne asks, is whether they should ..... **Page 15**

Underrated classics, A to Z: After Gorecki's chart triumph, 26 eminent musicians and music-lovers suggest an alphabet's worth of composers who deserve to top the charts ..... **Page 35**

Howard's way back to Will: Alan Howard, one of the foremost classical actors of the 1960s and 1970s, has returned to the Shakespearean stage at the National Theatre, and is tackling *Macbeth* for the first time..... **Page 33**

Maturity becomes him: An Albert Hall full of adoring fans was only too happy to welcome back Barry Manilow, in Britain on his "greatest hits" tour and still at the top of his form ..... **Page 34**

PEOPLE IN THE TIMES



Johnnie Johnson, Britain's top fighter pilot snubbed by the RAF 75th anniversary organisers, is unable now to accept a late invitation
Page 7



Edouard Balladur, named yesterday as the next French prime minister, is looked on by some of his countrymen as *très Britannique*
Pages 1, 11



Sian Wright, four, arrived at Downing Street yesterday with a basket of Bramley apples for the prime minister's 50th birthday
Page 3

THE TIMES TOMORROW

TV and promises, promises

■ Have the new independent television companies kept the promises they made to win their franchises? Alexandra Frean reports

Will rules help the homeless?

■ How will the new rules, which will make local councils responsible for community care, affect the homeless?

All creeds under one roof

■ The world's first museum of religion art and life opens in Glasgow this week, at a cost of £6 million. What can the faithful expect?

These women work for Manchester council ridding houses of rats and cockroaches. *40 Minutes* (BBC2, 9.50pm) profiles "the lady killers"..... **Page 39**

Balancing act

President Mitterrand will have less leeway directly to undermine the new French government than he had between 1986 and 1988. But he can exploit any failures by the coalition partners to cohabit with each other..... **Page 17**

Safe in their cots

The dramatic decline in the rate of cot deaths illustrates the power of vigorous public education and should encourage Virginia Bottomley in her drive to promote preventive medicine..... **Page 17**

A planners' Waterloo

Waterloo International station may become the biggest white elephant in London, which needs strategic planning instead of *ad-hoccery*, and working draught animals in the right place, instead of white elephants..... **Page 17**

BERNARD LEVIN

For no more than £635 a head, plus a few extras such as travel insurance, you can have 13 nights in Cuba, sampling the last bastion of —at the very words, moths fly out— "Marxism-Leninism"..... **Page 16**

LYNNE TRUSS

A new American movie in which a spaceship abducts a humble logger from Arizona is billed on its posters as "Based on a True Story". It pulls you up short, this kind of thing. I mean, doesn't anybody stop to ask why superintelligent aliens would do it? I mean, what's in it for them? ..... **Page 16**

The Danish foreign minister's challenge to a leading article on March 20 about the EC referendum in Denmark is challenged in turn by readers..... **Page 17**

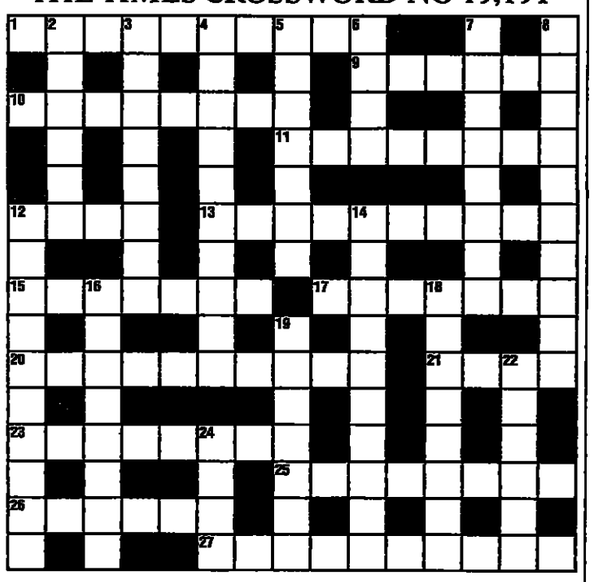
Can there any longer be even a scintilla of doubt about the true nature of the IRA? These are not freedom fighters but freedom destroyers. They go about their mad bombing with absolutely no regard for innocent human life

Los Angeles Times

In the poisoned atmosphere which rules today in Italy one thing is sure: one Italy is dying at the same moment her true face is revealed

Le Monde

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,191



ACROSS

1 The fairy-tale drudge caught at home with the German girl (10)
9 Deceptive appearance of accountant in decline (6)
10 Cell about right for minister's sentence (8)
11 Replace tie with vestment from the cupboard (8)
12 Story of a gang-leader in South America (4)
13 Freely render a rash paper (10)
15 Determined to place barrier between articles and books (7)
17 Wine, having taint, sad to say, is rejected (7)
20 One more gin sling — a source of power for sailors (6-4)
21 Harrow's Lothario, perhaps (4)
23 Speech mostly about an alternative to the Messiah, say (8)
25 Supporter grating on club? Quite the opposite (8)
26 Football team's language! (6)
27 Beat this as an object of infatuation! (5-5)

DOWN

2 In the same place a river rises in the Peninsula (6)
3 Reject record with feeble sound (8)
4 Appear again to receive writer's reward? (10)
5 Drag swimmer up away from the wind (7)
6 Some seafarers observed at a great distance (4)
7 Picture of a girl embraced by both parents (8)
8 Corrupt assignment involving, say, upheaval for Chateaubriand (10)
12 Diligence of a lecturer in theatre studies? (5-5)
14 M.P.S with chair working (10)
16 Suitable for ploughing about mid-August? It's doubtful (8)
18 She suppressed Regan's initial desire to be like Katharina (8)
19 Long exotic snake outside Italian city (7)
22 Novel about old Japanese garment (6)
24 One of three kings lacking a way to be prosperous (4)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,190

T	E	C	H	N	I	C	A	L		C	A	C	A	O
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Concise Crossword, page 40

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N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
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M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cloudy with rain. Brighter weather with showers will spread eastwards across Northern Ireland and mainland Scotland by afternoon. England and Wales will be cloudy with drizzle in places but rain over west Wales will spread eastwards, clearing most parts by the evening except for the South-East and the Channel Isles. Windy, with temperatures around normal. Outlook changeable with rain.

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	13	55	f	Luxor	29	84	s
Alicatti	17	63	s	Madrid	18	61	s
Alex'dria	18	64	f	Majorca	18	64	s
Algiers	19	66	f	Malaga	19	64	s
Amst'dm	8	46	s	Malta	17	63	s
Athens	14	57	f	Melb'rne	19	66	s
Bahrain	25	77	s	Miami*	26	79	s
Bangkok	33	91	s	Milan	11	52	s
Barbados*	29	84	f	Montreal*	13	55	s
Barcelna	15	59	f	Moscow	2	36	sn
Beirut	18	64	f	Munich	3	37	f
Belgrade	3	37	c	Naples	9	48	f
Berlin	4	39	c	N Delhi	25	77	s
Bermuda*	23	73	c	N York*	8	46	fg
Biarritz	14	57	f	Nice	14	57	s
Borde'x	14	57	f	Oslo	4	39	f
Brussels	9	48	s	Paris	9	48	c
Budapst	4	39	f	Peking	15	59	f
B Aires*	30	86	f	Perth	28	82	s
Cairo	21	70	s	Prague	3	32	sn
Cape Tn	22	72	s	Reykjavik	5	41	c
Chicago*	11	52	c	Rhodes	15	59	s
Ch'church	13	55	c	Rio de J	33	91	f
Cologne	7	45	s	Riyadh	27	81	s
C'phagn	3	37	f	Rome	12	54	s
Corfu	11	52	f	Salzburg	0	32	sn
Dublin	11	52	c	S P'rsbg*	13	55	f
Dubrovnik	10	50	f	Santiago*	28	79	s
Faro	17	63	s	S Paulo*	27	81	c
Florence	11	52	s	Seoul	13	55	s
Frankfurt	6	43	f	Sing'por	30	86	f
Funchal	17	63	c	St'kholm	2	36	f
Geneva	5	43	s	Straslb'rg	7	45	s
Gibraltar	21	70	s	Sydney	21	70	f
Helsinki	3	37	f	Tangier	17	63	s
Hong K	17	63	f	Tel Aviv	20	68	s
Innsbrck	3	37	s	Tenerife	19	66	s
Istanbul	12	54	f	Tokyo	10	50	s
Jeddah	30	86	s	Toronto*	12	54	f
Jo'burg*	25	77	f	Tunis	17	63	f
Karachi	31	88	f	Valencia	18	64	s
L Palmas	19	66	f	Vanc'ver*	10	50	s
Le Touet	10	50	s	Venice	10	50	s
Lisbon	18	64	s	Vienna	2	36	sn
Locarno	12	54	c	Warsaw	2	36	c
London	11	52	f	Wash'ton*	12	54	c
L Angels*	14	57	f	Wel'ton	15	59	f
Luxembg	6	43	s	Zurich	5	41	s

* denotes figures are latest available

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 12C (54F); min 6pm to 6am, 6C (43F). Humidity 6pm, 61 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 3.4hr. Bar. mean sea level, 6pm, 1,017 millibars, falling.
1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Sunday: Highest day temp: Jersey, Channel Islands, 12C (54F), lowest day max: Spadeadam, Cumbria, 4C (39F); highest rainfall: Douglas, Isle of Man, 0.37in; highest sunshine: Herne Bay, Kent, Suffolk, 9.2hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 12C (54F), min 6pm to 6am, 4C (39F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, trace. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 0.9hr.

EDINBURGH

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 9C (48F); min 6pm to 6am, 5C (41F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm; 0.22in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, nil.

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	-	5	41	rain
Anglesey	0.1	0.08	9	48	rain
Aviemore	0.6	0.02	7	45	cloudy
Belfast	4.6	0.07	11	52	shower
Birmingham	0.1	-	11	52	cloudy
Bognor Regis	5.7	-	10	50	bright
Bournemouth	5.3	-	11	52	sunny
Bristol	0.5	-	11	52	bright
Buxton	1.1	-	7	45	cloudy
Cardiff	0.9	-	9	48	rain
Clacton	5.9	-	5	41	bright
Edinburgh	-	-	7	45	rain
Eskdalemuir	-	0.16	2	36	rain
Exmouth	1.6	0.05	10	50	rain
Falmouth	0.2	0.12	9	48	rain
Folkestone	6.1	-	9	48	sunny
Glasgow	1.8	0.11	9	48	rain
Hastings	6.1	-	7	45	sunny
Hunstanton	7.5	-	9	48	sunny
Jersey	3.5	-	12	54	bright
Leeds	-	-	8	46	cloudy
Lerwick	-	0.30	5	41	sleet
Liverpool	0.3	0.02	10	50	rain
London	1.7	-	11	52	bright
Lowestoft	7.6	-	8	43	sunny
Manchester	0.6	-	10	50	rain
Margate	9.1	-	9	48	sunny
Minehead	1.3	0.01	11	52	shower
Morecambe	-	0.08	10	50	rain
Newcastle	-	-	6	43	rain
Newquay	-	0.14	9	48	shower
Nottingham	-	-	9	48	cloudy
Penzance	-	0.20	10	50	shower
Plymouth	-	0.05	9	48	rain
Poole	4.6	-	11	52	bright
Prestwick	1.5	-	8	46	rain
Sandown	4.6	-	10	50	bright
Saunton Snd	0.3	0.09	10	50	rain
Scarborough	2.4	-	6	43	cloudy
Scilly Isles	0.6	0.17	11	52	cloudy
Shanklin	5.5	-	10	50	bright
Southsea	5.6	-	10	50	bright
Stornoway	3.7	0.02	8	46	rain
Swanage	4.9	-	11	52	sunny
Teignmouth	0.2	0.06	9	48	rain
Tenby	-	-	8	46	cloudy
Tiree	4.1	-	9	48	bright
Torquay	1.9	0.03	10	50	bright
Weymouth	5.5	-	11	52	sunny
Wick	0.7	-	7	45	rain
Worthing	3.5	-	8	46	bright

London 8.01 pm to 6.11 am
Bristol 8.10 pm to 6.20 am
Edinburgh 8.17 pm to 6.19 am
Manchester 8.11 pm to 6.17 am
Penzance 8.21 pm to 6.33 am

Sun rises: 6.41 am — Sun sets: 7.31 pm
Moon rises: 10.29 am — Moon sets: 2.16 pm
First quarter tomorrow

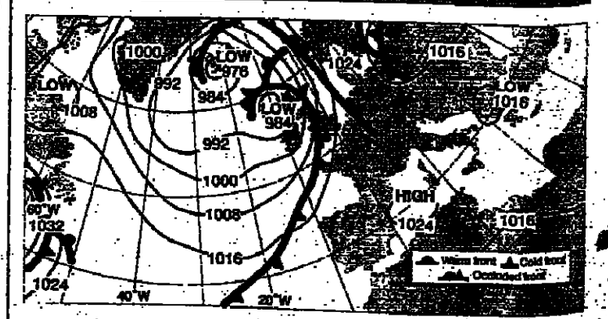
Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	9	48	r	Guernsey	10	50	c
B'mngham	10	50	s	Inverness	8	46	c
Blackpool	10	50	s	Jersey	10	50	c
Bristol	11	52	c	London	11	52	f
Cardiff	11	52	c	M'nchester	9	48	c
Edinburgh	8	46	c	Newcastle	8	46	f
Glasgow	7	45	r	R'nldsway	7	45	r

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	6.43	9.5	7.05	6.3	Liverpool	3.53	8.1	4.27	7.8
Aberdeen	8.18	3.5	7.03	3.4	Lowestoft	2.20	2.1	2.41	2.1
Avonmouth	11.58	10.8			Margate	4.43	4.3	5.12	4.2
Belfast	4.04	3.2	4.34	3.0	Milford Haven	11.10	5.8	11.34	5.8
Cardiff	11.43	10.1			Newquay	10.05	5.7	10.30	5.7
Devonport	10.46	4.5	11.11	4.5	Oban	10.32	3.0	10.50	3.1
Dover	3.27	5.9	4.00	5.7	Penzance	9.57	4.5	10.24	4.5
Falmouth	10.16	4.3	10.41	4.3	Portland	11.25	1.4	11.38	1.8
Glasgow	5.40	4.3	5.58	4.0	Portsmouth	4.05	4.2	4.45	4.1
Harwich	4.35	3.6	4.56	3.4	Shoreham	3.40	5.2	4.14	5.1
Holyhead	3.06	4.8	3.42	4.8	Southampton	3.45	4.0	4.23	3.9
Hull	11.09	6.2	11.46	6.1	Swansea	11.23	7.7	11.47	7.8
Ilfracombe	10.50	7.4	11.13	7.3	Tees	8.52	4.5	9.29	4.4
King's Lynn	11.12	5.4	11.53	5.1	Wilton-on-Nbe	4.29	3.8	4.50	3.5
Leith	7.50	4.5	8.28	4.4					

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.20	2.00
Austria Sch	18.15	16.65
Belgium Fr	53.20	48.80
Canada $	1.98	1.82
Denmark Kr	9.93	9.13
Finland Mrk	10.02	9.22
France Fr	8.73	8.03
Germany Dm	2.57	2.37
Greece Dr	349.00	324.00
Hong Kong $	12.20	11.20
Ireland Pt	1.05	0.97
Italy Lira	2475.00	2330.00
Japan Yen	191.50	172.50
Netherlands Gld	2.89	2.66
Norway Kr	10.92	10.12
Portugal Esc	236.50	218.50
South Africa Rd	5.45	4.75
Spain Pta	179.25	166.25
Sweden Kr	12.09	11.29
Switzerland Fr	2.37	2.19
Turkey Lira	14600.0	13600.0
USA $	1.585	1.48

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Information supplied by Met Office

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LAW 31

Why others can read your credit ratings



ARTS 33-35

Alan Howard gives his first Macbeth at the National



SPORT 36-40

England's new centre of attraction

FOCUS ON TELFORD & SHROPSHIRE
Section 3

THE TIMES

2

TUESDAY MARCH 30 1993

Generators sign coal deals

Power contracts safeguard some pit jobs

By Ross Tieman and Philip Bassett

BRITAIN'S power industry yesterday signed five-year contracts for 160 million tonnes of British coal, guaranteeing some miners' jobs for the foreseeable future.

As 4,000 miners and supporters marched through London before last night's coal debate in Parliament, the generators confirmed completion of the contracts. The agreements, worth £5.76 billion to British Coal, are sufficient only to ensure the future of the 19 "core" pits British Coal had meant to retain.

But the generators and the distribution companies disagreed over whether the full extent of cost-saving under the new contracts would be passed on to electricity consumers.

National Power and PowerGen, which signed the deal after more than a year of talks, insisted that they would pass on the full benefit of a 15 per cent reduction in the price of coal to their customers.

The 12 regional electricity companies, which will pay £13.3 billion for power generated from the coal, would receive an average price cut of 12 per cent from April 1, they said. Prices would fall by roughly 1 per cent a year for the four successive years.

Ed Wallis, chief executive of PowerGen, said: "This will result in price reductions to the regional electricity companies of 17 per cent in real terms over the next five years."

Those figures were rejected as a gross exaggeration by at least two regional supply companies. "We are going to be seeing price cuts of between 5 and 6 per cent," said a spokeswoman for Manweb. "We don't recognise any of their figures." A spokesman for Northern Electric said his company also anticipated a reduction of 5 to 6 per cent.

The dispute is likely to prove politically sensitive. Most regional electricity companies (RECs) are expected to announce price freezes or cuts for the year beginning next month, but the largest cut in household bills yet announced by a REC is 3.2 per cent.

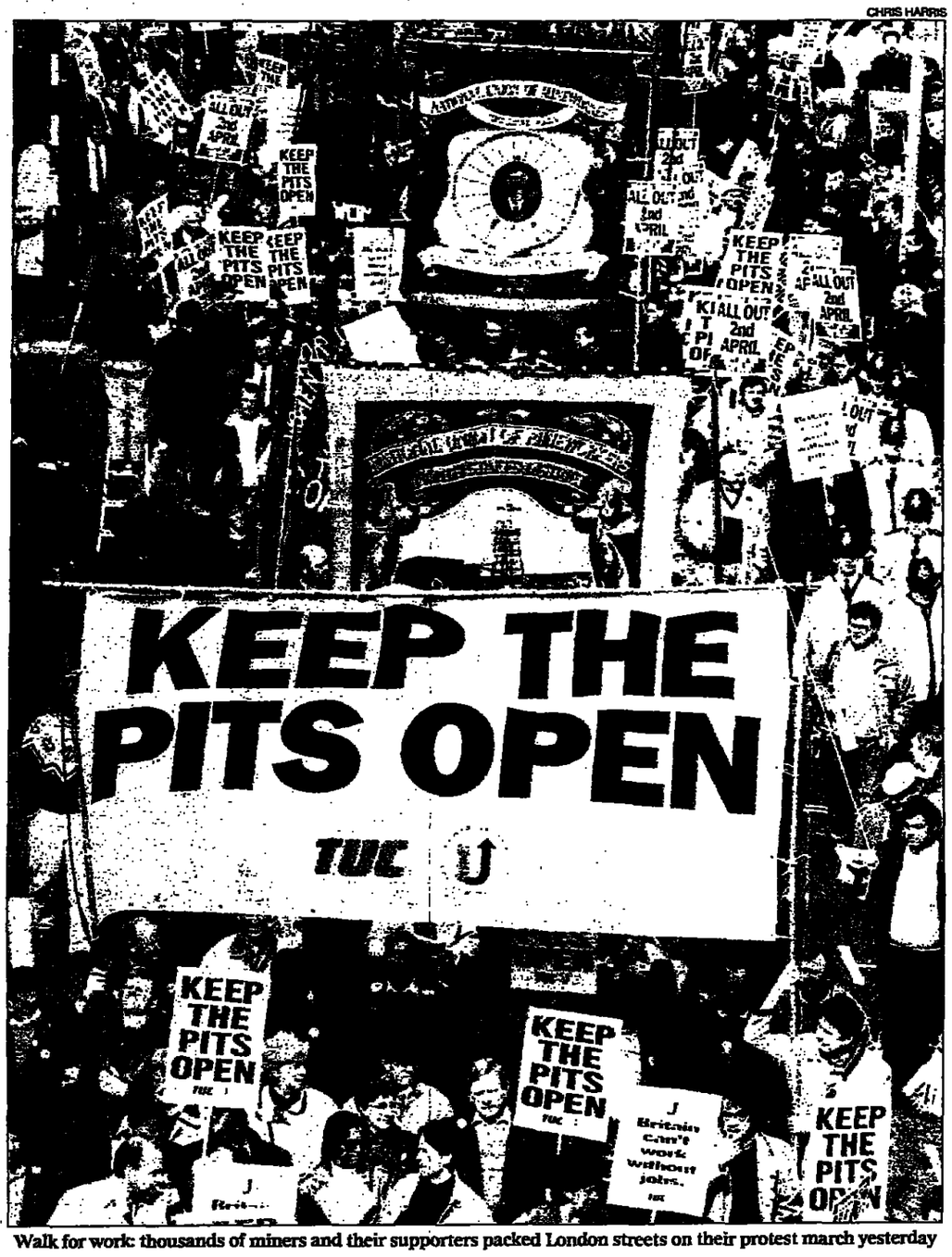
The RECs are keen to avoid any charges of profiteering, particularly because the government intends to impose 17½ per cent value added tax on domestic power bills in two stages, beginning with a 9 per cent rise next year. Many RECs are also unhappy that price controls imposed by Offer, the electricity regulator, force them to share cost savings with customers, while the generators have kept the benefits of their own efficiency programmes for shareholders.

Against that background, talks are expected to begin soon between British Coal, the generators and RECs about purchases of more deep-mined coal from British Coal. Under the terms of Michael Heseltine's white paper, the survival of the 12 mines supposedly "reprieved" will depend on the effectiveness of new subsidies in enabling British Coal to persuade the generator to substitute their production for imports.

Thousands of trade unionists marched through the capital yesterday to protest at the coal white paper. Though the turnout on the march organised by the Trades Union Congress was heavily down on the last pit rally in October, union officials were pleased at the number protesting at very short notice. Police estimated the numbers marching at about 2,000, though independent estimates put it higher, at perhaps double that.

Heseltine battle, page 1
Politics, page 9

CHRIS HARRIS



Walk for work: thousands of miners and their supporters packed London streets on their protest march yesterday

Pressure grows for mortgage rises

By Lindsay Cook
Money Editor

MORTGAGE rates could be under pressure to rise by the summer if there is no cut in bank base rates and those paid by National Savings. But lenders denied yesterday that there was any immediate threat from the increases in National Savings holdings and relaunch of the First Option Bond announced in the Budget.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders said: "In the long term we might have funding difficulties that could affect mortgage rates. Over 1993 there will be pressures but they are not there at the moment. We are not really expecting a mortgage rate increase now."

Lenders are worried that any rise would damage the early signs of recovery. The Halifax Building Society, the largest mortgage lender, reports that applications are running at 1,400 a day — more than double the figure for last autumn.

A Halifax spokesman said: "The new range of National Savings products will influence our views on future mortgage rates but we have no plans to increase mortgage rates."

Abbey National, the second-largest mortgage lender, said: "We are watching and if rates were to rise it would not be in the near future; it would be in a few months' time."

The Abbey's fixed-rate mortgage for first-time buyers has increased from 6.99 per cent to 7.25 per cent. This rate, fixed until May 1996, reflects the fact that in the longer term markets expect rates to increase rather than fall further.

The Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, which last year forced the government to reduce the rate on the First Option Bond or risk a round of mortgage-rate increases, said: "The government has created the economic environment and they must expect us to respond to it, if necessary."

BUSINESS TODAY

COST AXEMAN

Volkswagen's new chairman is taking the axe to costs and has a man motivated by almost religious zeal to back him up, writes Colin Narbrough
Page 25

PROFIT-TAKERS

The government is about to announce that the number of employees receiving profit-related pay exceeds a million for the first time
Page 23

WINDFALL

Courtaulds, the international chemicals company, is set to receive a £50 million windfall, after trustees allowed it to allocate a pension fund surplus
Page 23

WATER BOMB

Ian Byatt, the water industry regulator, has launched an attack on the high and expensive standards imposed on the UK industry by Brussels
Page 22

THE POUND

US $ ..... 1.4882 (-0.0035)
German mark ..... 2.4276 (-0.0051)
Exchange index ..... 79.3 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100 ..... 2846.5 (-6.4)
Dow Jones ..... 3463.75 (+23.77)
Nikkei Age 19048.38 (+259.68)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 6%
3-month Interbank ..... 6-5¹⁵⁄₁₆%
US Federal Funds ..... 3¹⁵⁄₁₆%*
3-month Treas Bills 2.93-2.92%*
Long Bond 6.93%*

CURRENCIES

New York:		London:	
£:$	....1.4906*	£:$	.....1.4905
$:DM	.1.6290*	£:DM	...2.4303
$:SWfr	1.5077*	£:SWfr	...2.2461
$:Ffr	...5.5285*	£:Ffr	....8.2240
$:Yen	.116.74*	£:Yen	...174.65
£:SDR	..1.0753	£:ECU	..1.2528

Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing ($):
AM 331.60 ..... PM 331.70
Close 331.75-332.25
New York:
Comex 331.85-332.45*

RETAIL PRICES

RPI ..... 138.8 February (1.8%)
* Denotes midday trading price

Pay of BAT chief increases by half

By Colin Campbell

SIR Patrick Sheehy, chairman of BAT Industries, the tobacco and financial services group, enjoyed a 53.6 per cent pay increase, to £980,679, in 1992.

BAT's annual report discloses that Sir Patrick's basic salary was £624,429, an increase of 7.6 per cent on the £580,446 he received in 1991. In addition, there was a performance-related sum of £356,250 (£57,970). Sir Patrick's nearest, but unnamed, rival in the directors' salary table fell within the £680,001 to £685,000 range.

The group said Sir Patrick, along with other executive directors and some managers, was entitled to a performance-related bonus determined by the group's financial performance.

In 1992, BAT's net earnings per share rose by 137 per cent, and the group's pre-tax profits by 68 per cent. There had been years, BAT said, when Sir Patrick's total emoluments had fallen — in 1990, "not a good year", his annual package fell by 14 per cent. BAT said there was a compensation committee of non-executive directors that oversaw the figures.

The number of employees in the group fell from 205,616 to 197,989 in 1992.



Sir Patrick: almost £1m

Profit-linked pay, page 23

Stumbling, but in the right direction



ANTHONY HARRIS

Norman Lamont's long-term Budget strategy is looking broken before it is a fortnight old. Necessary tax increases were deferred in order to protect a delicate recovery; but consumer confidence, as measured by Gallup, promptly collapsed.

The markets were offered a brand new monetary policy now, and fiscal virtue later. They believed neither and prices responded with a continued drift — downward in the equity market, and sideways in gilts.

The official response has been more hurt than penitent. Officially inspired reports have brought daily news of expenditure cuts being examined for the November Budget. Shame on anyone who thought that raising taxes was the only way to close the fiscal gap. The Bank of England and the Treasury have mounted a public-relations war in defence of the new monetary policy.

All right, the monetary targets look pretty hazy: but what is the need for monetary targets if you are targeting inflation itself? We are serious about inflation, and monitor it monthly. Just try to understand.

The trouble is that Mr Lamont's critics think that they understood very well in the first place, and simply repeating the message does not make it any more persuasive. It is true that time could be on Mr Lamont's side as far as fiscal policy is concerned: the Treasury's record of forecasting its own borrowing is so bad that part of the problem could easily melt away as the actual figures appear.

Monetary policy is another matter, though. Targeting inflation rather than the money supply is not a new invention, but a return to the 1960s; it did not work then, which is why monetarism came into fashion. It is true that money targeting didn't work either: but stepping resolutely into the past is no answer.

Inflation, as ministers used to remind us frequently, is a lagging indicator — which means that targeting inflation means always doing everything too late.

The official glosses on this nonsense are often no more than tautologies. For example, the Budget Red Book explains that the recent growth of M0 does not necessarily presage a rise in inflation, because its velocity of circulation is no longer growing. But if the velocity of circulation is unpredictable, as this suggests, then the growth of M0 — whether it is above its monitoring range or below it, is equally unpredictable. All the Red Book statement means is: "It may have been a mistake to target M0 in the first place. Or perhaps not. We don't know."

However, even this is some improvement on the fatuous observation in the Treasury's February monetary report — a report intended to reassure the markets — that perhaps the surge in M0 was simply a response to low interest rates.

But is not the whole point of targeting or monitoring M0 to help you know if interest rates are too high, too low, or about right?

I feel sure that the officials involved could do better than this: but perhaps they do not want to.

The whole episode reminds me of an incident many years ago, when an ex-Treasury knight who had moved to the Confederation of British Industry wrote a singularly limp defence of his new employer's Budget proposals.

When he was teased about this by an ex-colleague, he responded: "I have to defend the policy, ex officio; but there's nothing in my contract that says I have to be convincing." Just so.

Yet in another sense British policy is convincing, and more so than, say, German policy. It may be half-hearted and technically inept (and even if it were technically sound, it would be quite incompatible with any likely European central-bank regime), it does at least ask the important questions. Future monetary policy must give weight to asset prices, and fiscal policy to realistic forecasts of fiscal burdens.

The Germans, with a monetary policy that throws all the European Monetary System countries into recession without stopping inflation, and a fiscal policy that evades the huge old-age burden which is looming, does neither.

In that sense, the fact that British long-term gilts yield 1.2 per cent more than corresponding Bunds does seem unfair. We may be stumbling, but at least it is in the right direction.

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JOHN CHARCOL

TALK ABOUT A BETTER MORTGAGE

0 7 1 – 6 1 1 – 7 0 0 0

Typical example: public borrowers, fixed rate savings, aged 30 plus, with an endowment mortgage of £46,000 on a property valued at £60,000, repaid over 25 yrs, assuming completion on 1.4.93. Gross repayment of £304.75 per mth of the first 57 months assuming a fixed rate of 7.95% until 1.5.98. Thereafter 243 monthly repayments of £306.22, assuming a variable rate of 7.99%. Overall APR 8.5%. The fixed interest rate to 1.5.98 is dependent on the percentage of the property value borrowed. Up to 75% of property value the fixed interest rate is 7.95% for below 90% subsequent values it is 8.15%, and above 90% it is 8.35%. For the purpose of calculating this typical APR the variable fixed rate of 7.95% has been assumed. Total amount payable £109,397. Securities used to calculate an arrangement fee of £295, reduced to £295 for completions prior to 16.9.93, a non-refundable reservation fee of £75, £112.50 legal fees, £140 valuation fee, a £500 indemnity guarantee premium, and £247.27 annual interest. 300 monthly low cost endowment premiums of £58.96. Loans subject to status, type and value of property. John Charcol Ltd is a member of FIMBRA. Pensions, endowments and other investments are regulated by FIMBRA, and may be assigned as security against a mortgage. Mortgage and credit facilities advertised here are not regulated by the Financial Services Act 1986) and the rules made for the protection of investors by the Act will not apply to them. Building insurance may be required. Credit broker fees of up to 1% may be charged depending on the type of product and credit period. John Charcol Ltd is a licensed credit broker. Be sure you can afford the repayments before entering into a mortgage agreement.

EC attacked over rising water costs

By George Sivell, city editor

IAN Byatt, the water industry regulator, attacked the high and expensive standards imposed on the industry by Brussels. His criticism seems likely to limit the rate of increase of water bills in future.

The director-general of water services said standards expected by Brussels were "not all scientifically based, and you could say they were politically based". A substantial burden was placed on customers without full costing at an early stage.

Announcing customer reaction to the consultation document *The Cost Of Quality*, Mr Byatt said: "Customers are asking for standards to be reappraised in the light of debate on subsidiarity. They are also asking questions about existing standards, the speed of standards going into place and the pace at which bills increase."

Customer responses will play an important part in the review of price limits Mr Byatt is due to conduct in April 1995. "I am quite keen to see the price escalator stopped at some point," he said.

Many customers already had difficulty paying bills. "The additional pressure on customers to pay for further improvements in water quality and environmental standards suggests a balance must be found between the quality of water services and bills which customers are willing to pay."

Customers could face bills as high as £250 in today's prices by the year 2000, compared with last year's average of £169, Mr Byatt said. The main factor driving bills up was legislation requiring further increases in quality standards for drinking water, inland watercourses and bathing and other coastal waters.

In an open letter yesterday to Michael Howard, the environment secretary, Mr Byatt said drinking water standards were perceived to be currently high. "The need for further improvements in quality should be based more firmly on scientific evidence and health-related benefits. The cost of removal of pesticides and associated products are seen to be lacking in justification and priority when compared with risks from known toxins."

The government should review the effects of EC legislation on the statutory obligations of UK water companies, he said.

Yesterday, Mr Byatt helped to launch Ofwat's national customer council, the co-chairman of which will be James Gardner, who is also the chairman of the body's Northumbria customer service committee.

Mr Gardner said: "We shall go quite actively into Europe, and tell the commission what the British consumer thinks. We shall also go through Westminster. We can put things in a slightly more political, colourful language than Mr Byatt can because of his position."

JOHN MANNING



Faces of hope: Pearson managing director Frank Barlow, left, and Lord Blakenham say profits should improve

Pearson falls for third year running

By Susan Gilchrist

PROFITS at Pearson, the publishing, banking and entertainment conglomerate, slipped for the third consecutive year after a catastrophic performance from its oil services division.

Lord Blakenham, chairman, revealed pre-tax profits of £150.8 million, a fall of 16 per cent, despite a small rise in turnover to £1.6 billion. However, the results were better than the City had expected, and the share price rose 26p to 403p. Oil services suffered from a fall in American gas prices in the first half and a slowdown in US drilling. The resulting squeeze on margins, and the cost of 800 redundancies, dragged profits from £34.7 million to £500,000.

Although the trading environment remains "uncertain", Pearson is hopeful that profits will improve, now action has been taken to align costs with lower revenues. However, they are unlikely to return to 1991 levels for several years. Profits from the group's media and entertainment interests, which encompass the *Financial Times*, Madame Tussaud's and the Alton Towers theme park, rose 24 per cent. Penguin was the division's star performer, doubling profits to £26.3 million.

BSkyB, in which Pearson has a 17.5 per cent stake, was profitable at the trading level. James Joll, the finance director, says the group may see some return from its £130 million investment in the satellite television station in the coming year. Job losses, most of which occurred in oil services and newspapers, will save about £30 million a year. Lord Blakenham and Frank Barlow, group managing director, do not rule out further cuts.

Net cash flow from operating activities rose 22 per cent to £200.3 million. The final dividend rises to 6.625p, making a total of 12p, up 3 per cent.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Euro Disney reports big rise in French visitors

EURO Disneyland, the theme park outside Paris, expects its 11 millionth visitor within weeks of its first anniversary, on April 12, the company said in an optimistic statement that sent the shares up 40p to £11.25. But the company still expects a loss for the financial year to end-September, said Philippe Bourguignon, president, despite an improved second half, which contains the summer season.

Euro Disney reported a "dramatic" increase in French visitors, to 3.5 million, and said the number of visitors from other countries was also growing. The park's unpopularity with the host nation was one of the factors blamed by critics for lower than expected attendances. Euro Disney has unveiled six new attractions and is raising the entry fee during the summer and Christmas holidays and cutting prices during the "value" season, from November until the end of February. Other prices stay unchanged.

Linread gives warning

LINREAD, maker of car and aircraft parts, gave warning about future demand despite a recovery in pre-tax profits last year to £1.32 million from losses of £2.2 million in 1991, when there was an exceptional charge of £2.9 million. Earnings were 7.26p a share (loss of 13.84p). A final dividend of 2.25p a share makes 3.75p for the year, up from 3.5p. Turnover eased to £37.8 million (£39.7 million) but operating profits rose to £2.09 million (£1.36 million).

MY holds dividend

MY HOLDINGS, the paper and plastics packaging group, has held the interim dividend at 0.25p a share but says it hopes to increase the final dividend, given improved trading conditions. In the six months to the end of February, pre-tax profits rose to £911,000 from £758,000, although earnings were almost unchanged at 1.48p a share, against 1.47p. Turnover held at £16.1 million (£16.6 million) and profits before interest were £983,000 (£1.06 million).

Explosion costs £3.5m

HICKSON International, the speciality chemicals group, incurred costs of £3.5 million after September's explosion, which killed five people at its plant in Castleford, West Yorkshire, but expects to recover £3 million from insurers. Pre-tax profits for 1992, under the new accounting standards, were £29.2 million (£15.8 million) from continuing operations, on a turnover of £328.2 million (£294.5 million). The total dividend stays at 8p.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
ABBEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS 80 Holdenhurst Rd, Bournemouth BH8 8AL. 0345 717373				
Mastertrust	111.60	119.30	+0.20	1.13
International	83.21	88.52	+0.23	1.12
Dividend Gth	56.42	60.02	-0.26	5.00
Global Gth Sec	60.67	64.54	+0.18	2.85
Ethical Growth	63.66	67.93	-0.11	2.78
High Inc Equity	149.50	159.00	-0.90	5.35
Worldwide Bond	259.10	274.80*	-0.40	4.55
Gilts Fixed Int	129.70	136.40†	-0.30	6.23
ABTRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 10 Queens Terrace, Aberdeen AB9 1QJ. 0224 633070. Dealing: 0800 833580. 30 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7QQ. 071 374 6801				
Amer Inc Gth	43.64	46.09	+0.01	1.54
European	79.24	83.96†	+0.97	...
European Inc	76.63	81.36†	-1.08	1.84
Exempt	874.70	901.90	-4.30	3.40
Extra Inc	41.94	45.53†	-0.08	5.52
F East Emerg Ec	79.79	85.92	+0.05	0.75
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TRUSTS Allied Dunbar Centre, Swindon, SN1 1EL. 0793 514514. Dealing: 0793 610366				
High Inc	367.10	392.40†	-0.20	4.29
Equity Inc	206.20	220.40†	-0.30	4.13
High Yield	231.40	247.30	-0.30	4.20
Balanced	629.10	672.50	-1.60	2.78
American Inc	48.86	52.23	-0.21	3.27
Wld Asset Val	38.37	41.01	-0.25	2.00
Japan	163.90	174.70	-3.90	0.01
Secs of Am	423.40	450.80	-0.50	0.44
AXA EQUITY & LAW St George's Hse, Corporation St, Coventry CV1 1QD. 0203 553231				
UK Growth Acc	306.60	326.20	-1.90	2.98
-do- Inc	219.70	233.90	-1.20	2.98
Higher Inc Acc	558.70	594.40	-2.60	4.05
-do- Inc	344.60	366.70	-1.60	4.05
Gilt&Fxd Int Acc	174.20	183.90†	-0.50	6.68
-do- Inc	91.72	96.44†	-0.24	6.68
NB America	257.50	274.00	-0.40	...
Far East	[illegible]	[illegible]	-1.70	0.30
Europe	215.30	229.10	-1.10	1.19
General Inc	413.90	440.40†	-1.70	2.61
-do- Acc	454.60	482.70	-1.70	2.61
[illegible]	62.15	66.15	-0.35	3.00
[illegible]	64.91	68.63	-0.40	5.27
[illegible]	93.15	99.16	-0.50	5.27
[illegible]	59.09	77.50	-0.22	
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD Gredley Hse, 1-11 Broadway, London E15. 081 534 5544				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BARING FUND MANAGERS PO Box 156, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4XQ. 081 658 9002				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MANAGERS LTD 130 West George St, Glasgow G2 2PA. 041 332 3132				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BROWN SHIPLEY 9-17 Perrymount Rd, Haywards Heath. 0444 458144				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BUCKMASTER MANAGEMENT Beaufort House, 15 St Botolph Street, London EC3A 7JJ. 071 247 4542. Dealing: 071 247 7474				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
BURMAGE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 117 Fenchurch St, London EC3M 5AL. 071 480 7216				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD PO Box 105, Manchester M60 0AH. 061 837 5060				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CANNON FUND MANAGERS 1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB. 081 902 8876				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD 35 Fountain Street, Manchester M2 2AF. Enquiries: 061 236 5685. Dealing: 061 236 5362				
Capability Trusts				
American Gen	131.00	139.40†	..	0.20
-do- Acc	139.40	148.30	..	0.20
European	65.61	69.48	+0.44	1.08
-do- Acc	68.01	72.02	+0.46	1.08
Far East Gen	55.84	59.41†	+0.95	...
-do- Acc	55.84	59.41	+0.95	...
Glenfrias	246.30	262.10†	+0.80	1.01
-do- Acc	277.20	294.90	+0.70	1.01
Growth	370.80	396.60†	-0.20	2.58
-do- Acc	634.70	678.90	-0.40	2.58
Income Growth	367.50	391.00	-0.90	4.03
-do- Acc	488.60	519.80	-1.20	4.03
Master Portfolio	9309.0	9635.0	+17.00	2.70
-do- Acc	10722.0	11097.0	+19.00	2.70
Special Sits	84.51	89.91	-0.01	2.55
-do- Acc	98.89	105.30	+0.08	2.55
Exempt Fund				
High Yield	1194.0	1231.0	-2.00	4.49
-do- Acc	1382.0	1425.0	-3.00	4.49
CAPEL (JAMES) UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 7 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4HU. 071 955 5050. Dealing: 071 955 5055				
American Index	193.00	205.50*	-1.40	1.48
Capital	523.90	559.10	-2.20	2.38
Eurotrack 100	127.80	136.00*	+0.30	1.52
Euro Gth	79.33	84.47	-0.34	1.37
Far East Growth	82.64	88.19	-0.11	0.15
Global Bond	23.26	24.51	-0.11	5.83
Hong Kong	71.75	76.57†	-0.08	0.59
Income	503.50	537.30	-1.20	4.48
Intl Growth	72.20	77.05	+0.02	0.99
Japan Growth	233.00	248.60	+2.30	...
Japan Smllr Cos	29.03	30.98†	-0.56	...
Japan Index	68.80	73.42†	+0.79	0.34
Nth American	422.40	450.80	-2.40	0.96
S'pore Mly Gth	48.12	51.35	-0.87	...
The Fortsie Fd	106.30	112.20	-0.50	2.62
Tiger Index	131.70	140.50	+0.40	0.71
Trsale Index	101.00	107.70*	-0.20	2.67
UK Index	121.60	129.10	-0.50	3.02
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 3 Copthall Avenue, London EC2R 7BH. 071 606 0708				
American P'folio	83.58	89.39	+0.10	1.00
European P'folio	71.96	76.37	+0.14	1.39
Japanese P'folio	56.33	59.94	-0.79	...
Pacific P'folio	92.27	98.22	-0.52	2.43
Common P'folio	69.11	73.42	-0.07	3.00
UK Income Gth	62.64	67.15	-0.05	3.00
CENTRAL BOARD OF FINANCE OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND 2 Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ. 071 588 1815				
Investment Fd	[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]
Fixed Int	[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]
Deposit	[illegible]			[illegible]
CHARITIES OFFICIAL INVESTMENT FUND 2 Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ. 071 588 1815				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
CITY FINANCIAL UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD 1 White Hart Yard, London Bridge, SE1. 071 407 5966				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MANAGERS Exchange Court, 3 Bedford Park, Croydon CR0 2AQ. Enquiries 081 686 2222. Dealing 081 686 9414				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
EAGLE STAR UNIT MANAGERS Bath Road, Cheltenham GL53 7LQ. 0242 577 555				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
EDINBURGH UNIT TRUST MANAGERS Donaldson House, 97 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5HD. 031 313 1000				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Japan Exempt	97.64	100.30	-1.00	0.50
Sm Jap Exempt	478.90	492.00	-9.90	0.10
ENDURANCE FUND MANAGEMENT 41 Harrington Gardens, London SW7 4JU. 071 373 7261				
Endurance	168.50	179.20	...	1.12
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD Walton St, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP21 7QW. 0296 431480				
Pelican	104.15	109.61	-0.38	3.53
High Income	119.64	125.94	-0.15	5.07
Tst of Inv Tsts	138.72	146.02	-0.16	2.19
Special Sits	82.92	87.28	-0.39	3.08
North American	105.93	111.50	+0.03	1.06
Far Eastern	220.92	232.55	+2.19	1.57
Intl Growth	90.74	95.52†	+0.47	1.54
European	63.33	66.66	-0.23	2.25
Smaller Cos	70.02	73.71	-0.05	2.36
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVICES LTD Oakhill House, 130 Tonbridge Rd, Tonbridge TN11 9DZ. 0800 414181				
America	218.10	231.50	-0.30	...
Cash Unit Ts	100.00	100.00	...	5.90
European Tst	111.90	119.00	-0.50	...
FOREIGN & COLONIAL 8th Floor, Exchange Hse, Primrose St, London EC2A 2NY. 071 628 8000				
European	92.51	97.94	+0.50	0.88
Far Eastern	126.20	134.60	-1.50	...
Oseas Income	59.41	96.16	-0.27	2.74
UK Growth	90.23	96.50	-0.33	1.75
UK Income	100.10	107.10	-0.70	3.84
US Smaller Cos	235.60	252.00	-0.80	...
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MANAGEMENT 155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3FT. 071 374 4100				
Am Smllr Co	419.80	447.80	-3.90	..
-do- Acc	427.90	457.50	-4.10	..
Capital	280.30	298.10	-0.20	2.12
-do- Acc	390.40	415.30	-0.30	2.12
Conti Smllr Cos	46.56	50.19	-0.25	1.10
-do- Acc	48.18	51.93	-0.25	1.10
Convertible	109.50	116.40	-0.50	6.51
-do- Acc	202.70	215.60	-0.70	6.51
European	96.37	104.00	+1.60	1.15
-do- Acc	99.59	107.50	+1.70	1.15
Extra Income	285.60	303.70	-1.10	4.39
-do- Acc	399.90	425.30	-1.50	4.39
Financial	105.40	113.10	-0.40	0.81
-do- Acc	109.70	117.70	-0.40	0.81
Health Fund Inc	105.90	113.10	+0.70	..
-do- Acc	105.90	113.10	+0.70	..
Income Tst	175.70	186.90	-0.90	4.02
-do- Acc	244.90	260.50	-1.40	4.02
Intl Growth	301.30	320.90	-2.30	..
-do- Acc	334.60	354.90	-2.50	..
Japan Gen	152.40	162.90	-2.10	..
-do- Acc	154.00	164.60	-2.30	..
Mixed P'folio Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FRIENDS PROVIDENT MANAGERS Castle Street, Salisbury Wilts SP1 3SH. Dealing: 0722 411411. Administration: 0722 411622				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GT UNIT MANAGERS 8th Floor, 8 Devonshire Sq, London EC2M 4YJ. 071 220 4567. Dealing: 071 626 9431				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS Gartmore House, 16/18 Monument Street, London EC3R 8AJ. 071 623 1212. Dealing: 0277 264421, services: 0800 289 336				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GOVETT (JOHN) UNIT MANAGEMENT Shackleton House, 4 Battle Bridge Lane, London SE1 2HR. 071 378 7979. Dealing: 071 388 0520				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
GRE UNIT MANAGERS 36 Harbour Exchange Sq, London E14 9GE. 071 539 9668				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Income Trust	106.00	113.20	-0.40	3.46
International	151.70	162.00†	+0.20	0.36
Japan Trust	111.90	119.80	+1.60	...
Managed				
Nth American	257.10	274.60	-2.50	0.45
Pacific	348.10	371.80	+1.90	...
Prop Shares	...	...		...
Small Cos	...	...		...
European	334.40	357.20	+3.90	0.57
HALIFAX STANDARD TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD PO Box 600, Edinburgh EH15 1EW. 0800 838868				
Global Adv Inc	34.20	36.26†	...	1.87
-do- Acc	35.80	37.95	...	1.87
Inc Adv Inc	29.15	30.90†	...	4.20
-do- Acc	30.31	32.13	...	4.20
HAMBROS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS 5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex. Enquiries: 0277 227300. Dealing: 0277 690340				
Canadian	70.99	76.05	-0.15	0.96
Equity Income	112.00	119.20†	-0.40	3.56
European	131.40	139.00†	+1.40	0.87
Intl Situation	73.10	77.77	-0.02	...
Japanese	125.20	133.30	+1.50	...
North American	101.50	107.70	-0.50	0.06
Scandinavian	102.30	108.20	+1.20	0.47
Smaller Cos	29.16	31.02	-0.08	2.26
HENDERSON PO Box 2003, Brentwood, Essex CM13 1XT. Enquiries: 0277 227300. Dealing: 0277 234772				
Amer Smaller	87.89	93.99	+0.52	...
Asian Enterprise	115.73	124.99	+0.19	0.79
Australian	133.21	142.39†	-0.30	1.45
European	360.77	381.77	+2.94	1.25
European Inc	68.27	72.22†	+0.37	3.11
Euro Sml Co	121.87	129.56	-0.59	0.76
Extra Income	254.84	271.29†	-0.55	5.61
Family of Funds	67.49	72.07	-0.01	1.46
Fixed Interest	55.01	58.82†	-0.10	8.81
Global Resour	87.70	94.14	-0.59	1.10
High Inc	278.65	297.86	-0.25	4.95
Income Gth	231.58	246.95	-0.95	4.85
-do- Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	-2.41	4.05
International	219.24	233.14†	+0.65	1.20
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
HILL SAMUEL UT MANAGERS NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon. 081 686 4355				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
IBJ FUND MANAGERS 16 Queen St, London EC4R 1BN. 071 489 4677				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
INVESCO MIM UT MANAGERS 11 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4YR. 071 626 3434. Dealing 0800 010733				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUST LTD 10 Fenchurch Street, London EC3. 071 956 6600. Dealing: 071 956 7354				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
LAS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS 113 Dundas St, Edinburgh EH3 5EB. 031 550 5151				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Far East	24.36	25.91†	+0.10	0.98
Income Gwth	70.77	75.29†	-0.41	3.13
Intl Growth	49.86	53.04†	+0.20	0.88
Japan	56.04	59.62	+0.93	...
Maximum Dist*	100.60	102.60	...	7.36
N Amer Equity	39.84	42.38	-0.34	0.48
UK Equity	85.04	90.47	-0.48	3.26
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT 1 White Hart Yard, London SE1. 071 407 5966				
Income Gth Inc	52.14	55.47	-0.36	4.80
LEGAL & GENERAL UT MANAGERS 5 Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Brentwood Essex. Enq: 0277 227300. Dealing: 0277 690395				
Equity Dist	413.50	439.90†	-1.20	2.94
Equity Acc	785.00	835.10	-3.10	2.94
Equity Income	89.51	95.22†	-0.40	5.19
European	93.77	99.76	+0.57	1.71
Far Eastern	166.20	176.80	+1.80	0.33
Fixed Interest	50.87	54.12†	-0.18	7.40
Gilt	91.52	97.06	-0.35	7.00
Global Growth	63.05	67.03	+0.23	0.76
Intl Bond	56.00	59.57†	+0.01	5.00
Japanese	61.49	65.41	+0.97	...
Overseas Equity	91.26	97.09	+0.03	0.81
Pacific Gth	78.82	83.85†	+0.13	1.34
LLOYDS BANK UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD Mountbatten Hse, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF. 0634 834313				
Balanced	309.00	328.80	-3.40	3.02
-do- Acc	669.30	712.10	-7.20	3.02
Contl Euro Gth	50.42	53.08	+0.36	1.37
-do- Acc	53.32	56.13	+0.38	1.37
Extra Inc	235.30	250.40	-2.00	4.07
-do- Acc	572.40	609.00	-4.90	4.07
German Gth	101.20	106.60	+0.60	0.33
-do- Acc	106.20	111.80	+0.60	0.33
Growth Port	475.30	505.70	-3.30	2.06
-do- Acc	475.30	505.70	-3.30	2.06
Income	441.60	469.80	-3.70	3.84
-do- Acc	1119.0	1191.0	-9.00	3.84
Income Port	483.30	513.20	-2.40	5.59
-do- Acc	493.30	513.20	-2.40	5.59
Japan Growth	84.57	89.97	+1.37	0.01
-do- Acc	84.86	90.28	+1.37	0.01
Master Trust	50.65	53.89	-0.32	1.68
-do- Acc	55.09	58.61	-0.35	1.68
N American Gen	182.70	194.40	-0.50	0.01
-do- Acc	211.10	224.60	-0.40	0.01
NAm Sm Co Rec	130.00	138.30	-0.50	0.01
-do- Acc	132.60	141.10	-0.50	0.01
Pacific Basin	190.60	202.80	-1.10	0.69
-do- Acc	201.40	214.30	-1.20	0.69
Small Cos Rec	300.60	316.50	-1.40	2.31
-do- Acc	387.80	408.30	-1.80	2.31
UK Growth	75.45	80.48	-2.09	2.36
-do- Acc	88.21	93.85	-2.43	2.36
Worldwide Gth	266.20	283.20	-3.60	0.30
-do- Acc	392.20	417.30	-5.40	0.30
LONDON & MANCHESTER Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 0392 282673				
General	76.06	[illegible]	[illegible]	7.00
Income	58.11	62.35*	-0.06	[illegible]
International	54.60	58.58	-0.03	[illegible]
American	59.32	62.65	-0.42	[illegible]
Japan	45.95	49.24	[illegible]	
Tst of Inv Trusts	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.00
M & G SECURITIES LTD Victoria Rd, Chelmsford CM1 1FB. Customer Services/Unit Dealing: 0245 390390				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD PO Box 410, Chester X, CH99 9QG. 0244 680000				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD Saltire Court, 20 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2ES. 031 229 5252				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD 33 King William St, EC4R 9AS. 071 280 2060				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Japan	158.30	168.00	+1.90	...
-do- Acc	162.50	172.40	+1.80	...
New Europe	131.10	139.90†	+0.50	1.43
-do- Acc	133.30	142.20†	+0.50	1.43
Recovery	284.50	303.50	-0.80	2.31
-do- Acc	355.50	379.30	-1.00	2.31
European Inc	73.24	77.74	+0.54	3.02
-do- Acc	92.91	98.61	+0.67	3.02
Brit Blue Chip	69.95	74.55	-0.18	3.70
-do- Acc	82.50	87.93	-0.22	3.70
Portfolio	71.56	76.11	-0.14	3.14
-do- Acc	81.37	86.54	-0.16	3.14
Gold General	73.16	78.04	-0.40	3.11
-do- Acc	74.17	79.11	-0.40	3.11
Pacific	83.01	88.55	-0.67	0.56
-do- Acc	87.75	93.60	-0.72	0.56
UK Smaller Cos	49.24	52.53†	-0.04	1.09
-do- Acc	54.96	58.63†	-0.06	1.09
MIDLAND UNIT TRUSTS LTD 192 Eyre Street, Sheffield, S1 3RD. Dealing: 0742 528 200. Enquiries: 0742 529 076				
Balanced Dist	56.75	60.68	-0.07	3.30
-do- Acc	56.75	60.69	-0.07	3.30
British Dist	74.62	79.81†	-0.13	2.43
-do- Acc	84.47	90.34	-0.14	2.43
European Gth	163.80	174.90	+1.10	0.16
-do- Acc	205.60	219.50	+1.30	0.16
Extra High Inc	67.45	72.14	-0.13	6.65
-do- Acc	117.20	125.40	-0.20	6.65
FT-SE 100 Index	47.34	50.60	-0.15	2.96
-do- Acc	47.31	50.60	-0.15	2.96
Gilt Fixed Int	55.92	58.21†	-0.15	7.07
-do- Acc	147.10	153.10	-0.40	7.07
High Yield	212.90	227.70	-0.60	5.15
-do- Acc	488.60	522.60	-1.40	5.15
Income	270.70	289.50	-0.40	3.84
-do- Acc	562.80	601.90	-0.70	3.84
Japan Gth	297.30	318.10†	+6.30	...
-do- Acc	313.80	335.60	+6.60	...
Mandarin Acc	91.35	97.70	-0.11	1.67
North American	163.20	174.50	-1.20	0.51
-do- Acc	205.10	219.40	-1.50	0.51
MORGAN GRENFELL INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD 20 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 1UT. Dealing: 071 826 0826. Enquiries: 071 826 0123				
American Gth	258.00	274.80	-1.80	0.45
Deposit Inc	100.13	100.13	+0.03	5.42
Deposit Acc	121.70	121.70	+0.04	5.42
Euro Gth Acc	253.80	271.20†	+2.10	...
Europa	116.20	125.60†	+1.20	...
Intl Gth	161.70	172.70	-0.60	...
Japan Tracker	66.69	70.65	+0.91	...
UK Equity Inc	142.90	153.80	-1.50	5.06
-do- Acc	172.10	185.20	-1.80	5.06
UK Ind Tracker	138.40	148.30†	-1.30	3.56
US Eq Ind Trkr	191.30	203.00†	-2.50	1.31
-do- Acc	202.30	214.70	-2.70	1.31
Asian Trader	139.90	152.00	-0.50	1.04
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT 7 West Nile St, Glasgow G2 2PX. 0345 090 933				
American Inc	170.90	174.90†	-1.50	2.42
European	60.02	61.34	-0.33	1.21
Olympiad	51.99	53.30†	-0.22	0.54
Global Bond	47.66	48.17†	-0.17	6.81
Smaller Cos	60.99	63.70	-0.45	1.53
Equity Income	91.25	92.91†	-0.84	4.96
UK Growth	79.99	82.40	-0.97	2.00
N&M UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD The Bilton Centre, North Harbour, Portsmouth. Enquiries: 0705 372222. Dealing: 0705 387730				
American Acc	49.22	50.36	-0.54	0.84
Australian Acc	282.60	315	-1.20	...
[illegible]	62.84	66.85	+1.12	1.53
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
N&P UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 35 Fountain St, Manchester M2 2AF. 061 237 5525				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
NEWTON FUND MANAGERS 2 London Bridge, London SE1 9RA. 071 407 4404				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PEARL UNIT TRUST LTD PO Box 500, Peterborough PE2 6HR. 0733 470470. Dealing: 0800 626577				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PERPETUAL UNIT TRUST 48 Hart Street, Henley on Thames. 0491 417000				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PROLIFIC UNIT TRUST MANAGERS Walbrook Hse, 23 Walbrook, London EC4N 8LD. Dealing 0800 262683				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
PROSPERITY UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT [illegible], Maidstone, Kent. 0622 674751				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
General	46.47	49.44	-0.27	3.46
International	81.64	86.85	+0.56	1.31
Gilt Units	26.29	27.10†	-0.10	8.10
Global PEP	34.52	36.72	...	2.12
Income Gth	62.31	66.29†	-0.09	5.31
European	42.04	44.72†	+0.22	1.19
Gilt/Fixed Int	25.25	26.86†	-0.11	6.30
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD 51/59 Ilford Hill, Ilford, Essex IG1-2DL. 081 478 3377. Pricelink: 0426 925091				
Pru Mngd Tst**	29.57	31.62†	+0.06	1.64
Pru Csh Hvn Inc	101.36	101.36†	+0.03	5.37
-do- Acc	104.43	104.43†	+0.03	5.37
Pru Equity	642.87	687.56	-4.35	2.46
Pru Equity Inc	78.83	84.31†	-0.51	4.56
Pru European	169.65	181.44	+1.21	1.86
Pru Global Gth	76.50	81.81	+0.05	1.57
Pru High Inc	84.02	89.86†	-0.33	5.72
Pru Intl	153.46	164.12	+0.65	1.32
Pru Intl Sm Co	65.12	69.64†	+0.62	0.92
Pru Japanese	171.19	183.09†	+5.30	...
Pru Nth Amer	141.82	151.67	-0.08	0.46
Pru Pacific Mkt	69.46	74.28	-0.22	1.89
Pru Premr Inc	49.38	51.42	-0.13	7.44
Pru Smllr Cos	80.31	85.89	-0.22	2.01
Pru Spec Sits	95.51	102.14	-0.75	2.27
Pru UK Growth	106.41	113.80†	-0.79	2.38
** Formerly Holborn Trust				
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT LTD St Swithin's Lane, London EC4N 8NR. Dealing: 071 634 2981/4				
NC Income	153.87	162.33	-1.58	3.72
NC Japan	240.06	257.28	+3.97	...
NC Mid UK Cos	92.92	97.82	-0.81	2.57
NC America Inc	472.60	505.60	-1.34	0.57
-do- Acc	548.92	588.42	-1.56	0.57
NC Smlr UK Cos	248.86	271.22†	-1.34	1.86
NC European	249.12	266.02	+2.51	1.52
SAVE & PROSPER GROUP 16-22 Western Rd, Romford RM1 3LB. 0708 766966 or 0800 929929 (IFAs only)				
Amer Inc Gth	73.02	77.68	-0.34	3.67
Capital Units	137.60	146.30	-0.20	1.44
Commodity	96.78	102.90†	-0.80	1.15
European Gth	146.40	155.70	+1.70	1.40
Financial Sec	161.80	174.20	-0.30	1.93
High Return	206.50	219.60	-0.90	4.64
High Yield	199.60	212.30†	-1.40	3.80
Income Units	104.60	111.20†	-0.50	4.95
Investment	163.60	174.30	-0.70	1.45
Japan Gth	128.20	136.30	+2.30	...
Japan Smaller	161.90	172.20	+2.00	...
Mastertund	43.76	46.55	-0.02	0.97
Scotbits	238.50	253.70	-0.50	1.66
Scotshares	248.40	264.20	-1.10	2.85
Scotyields	217.40	231.20†	-0.70	4.03
Select Intl	125.80	133.10	-0.30	0.74
Smaller Cos	219.90	224.30†	-0.30	4.29
Special Situation	105.50	112.20	-0.30	0.75
UK Equity	217.30	231.10	-1.10	2.90
US Growth	139.00	147.80†	-1.50	0.33
SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD 33 Gutter Lane, London EC2V 8AS. Client line: 0800 526 535. Broker line: 0800 526 540				
American	237.21	253.02	-0.78	0.71
-do- Acc	256.27	273.34	-0.85	0.71
Australian	132.31	141.15*	-0.24	1.41
-do- Acc	155.57	165.94	-0.28	1.41
UK Enterprise	200.31	213.66*	-1.11	2.82
-do- Acc	231.40	246.82	-1.28	2.82
European Gth	59.33	63.28†	+0.09	1.37
-do- Acc	61.42	65.50	+0.06	1.37
Euro Smllr Cos	55.37	59.06†	+0.17	0.69
-do- Acc	55.75	59.46	+0.16	0.69
Far Eastern Gth	64.13	68.40†	+0.60	...
-do- Acc	65.17	69.51	+0.61	...
Fixed Interest	51.69	54.51*	-0.16	8.20
-do- Acc	63.52	66.98	-0.19	8.70
Gilt Income	101.51	106.97†	-0.29	8.55
-do- Acc	141.86	149.49†	-0.39	8.55
Income	292.88	312.40†	-2.20	4.59
-do- Acc	864.04	921.64	-6.51	4.59
Japan Enterprise	58.51	62.41	+0.20	...
-do- Acc	58.51	62.41	+0.20	...
Japan Smllr Cos	364.13	388.40†	+3.19	...
-do- Acc	364.86	389.18	+3.20	...
Pacific Gth	81.60	87.04†	+0.57	0.55
-do- Acc	84.03	89.62	+0.58	0.55
Smaller Cos	180.82	192.85†	-0.14	1.30
-do- Acc	207.23	221.04	-0.15	1.30
Tokyo	91.38	97.47†	-1.10	0.01
-do- Acc	92.30	98.45	-1.11	0.01
US Equity	199.09	212.31*	-1.16	3.13
-do- Acc	368.61	393.18	-2.15	3.13
US Smllr Cos	130.50	139.19	+1.14	...
-do- Acc	130.50	139.19	+1.14	...
World Bd	67.37	71.86†	-0.20	1.74
-do- Acc	71.03	75.77	-0.20	1.74
SCOTTISH AMICABLE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD 150 St Vincent St, Glasgow G2 5NQ. 041 204 2200				
Equity Income	42.60	45.47	-0.23	4.43
Equity Strategy	62.28	66.33	-0.10	1.80
European Opps	70.47	75.05	+0.33	3.22
Midcap Inc	96.19	102.77	+0.05	5.64
UK Smaller Cos	48.40	51.55	-0.39	3.21
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrew Sq, Edinburgh. 031 225 2211				
UK Equity	334.40	356.40	-0.80	3.08
American	246.90	262.20	-1.10	0.06
Pacific	300.80	321.70	+2.10	0.01
European	447.30	479.80	+3.80	1.20
Worldwide	78.04	81.33	+0.39	1.40
SCOTTISH MUTUAL INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT 109 St Vincent St, Glasgow G2 5HN. 041 248 6100				
UK Equity	297.10	316.10	-1.70	2.79
UK Sm Cos Eqty	190.00	202.20	-1.80	2.43
European	310.00	340.30	+2.10	1.09
North American	249.70	265.70	-2.70	0.55
Income Plus Inc	61.20	67.24†	-0.51	3.90
UK Spec Sits	64.45	68.57	-0.25	2.40
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD 6 St Andrew Sq, Edinburgh EH2 2YA. 031 558 2341/2/3				
Equity Gth Acc	24.00	25.37	-0.13	3.17
Intl Growth Acc	27.44	29.17	+0.08	1.15
Global Inc Acc	30.19	32.31	-0.10	4.21
Market Ldrs Acc	25.35	27.17	-0.10	3.09
SG TOUCHE REMNANT Mermaid Hse, 2 Puddle Dock, London EC4V 3AT. 071 248 1250				
American Gth	81.41	87.06†	+0.07	...
Euro Spec Sits	41.00	45.73	+0.10	...
-do- Acc	45.53	48.68	+0.12	...
Far East Opps	29.08	31.22	-0.02	...
-do- Acc	29.75	[illegible]	-0.02	...
General Growth	97.12	104.00	+0.40	2.21
Global Tech	119.60	124.80	+0.50	...
Income Growth	98.55	105.00	-0.20	3.81
Income Monthly	95.36	99.34	-0.35	4.74
Japan Growth	71.28	75.74	+1.13	...
Overseas Gth	72.98	77.62	+0.43	...
Smaller Cos	68.97	73.25	+0.72	1.77
Special Opps	98.19	105.20	-0.50	2.33
Wld Spec Sits	44.75	47.27	+0.62	...
-do- Acc	44.81	48.37†	+0.62	...
STANDARD LIFE TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 3 George St, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ. 0800 393777				
Managed	42.58	45.25	...	1.77
Equity Gth Acc	57.24	60.82	-0.20	1.24
UK Eq General	41.39	43.98	...	2.59
-do- Acc	54.31	57.71	...	2.59
European Acc	40.34	42.83	+0.10	1.27
Far East Acc	49.81	52.93	+0.70	0.32
Gilt Fxd Int Inc	30.60	32.36	-0.10	6.87
N American Acc	43.57	46.30	-0.80	0.75
O/s Lgr Cos Acc	261.00	283.20	-0.60	1.67
UK Eq High Inc	34.64	36.81	-0.10	3.91
-do- Acc	40.57	43.11	-0.20	3.91
UK Lgr Cos Inc	284.50	308.70	...	3.99
UK Lgr Cos Acc	365.80	397.00	...	3.99
STATE STREET UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD Birchin Court, 20 Birchin Lane, London EC3V 9AQ. 071 626 1977				
Global A	N283.38	N283.59	...	1.24
US Eq	$2.089	$2.197	...	0.84
Far East Eq	Y209.3	Y222.3	...	...
Japan Eq	Y206.6	Y221.5	...	...
FT Europe	111.00	117.90	...	2.28
FT North Am	$1.723	$1.826	...	1.13
FT Japan	Y210.5	Y223.6	...	...
FT Asia Ex Jap	115.20	122.30	...	1.89
STEWART IVORY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS 45 Charlotte Sq, Edinburgh. 031 226 3271				
American	341.90	363.30	-2.20	0.29
British	921.70	975.20†	-0.80	4.35
European	374.20	398.50	+3.20	1.51
Japan	129.40	137.70	+3.20	...
New Pacific	279.80	298.00	+0.10	1.31
Mngd Cash	96.30	96.30	...	5.34
Majority Stg	100.51	101.52	+0.03	5.24
Inv Tst	175.90	186.50†	-0.40	1.92
Saints PPP	372.30	391.90	...	...
SUN ALLIANCE Admin. 5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Essex. 0277 227300. Dealing: 0277 690389				
Equity Acc	708.60	757.90	-2.10	2.42
N America Acc	111.60	119.40	-0.90	0.16
Far East Acc	114.40	122.30	+1.10	...
W wide Bond	61.90	65.71	-0.25	5.35
European	80.58	86.18	+0.76	0.62
Equity Income	79.80	85.35	-0.35	3.71
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ. Dealing: 0256 841414				
American Gth	34.06	36.43	-0.33	0.71
Managed Assets	115.06	123.06	-0.50	3.57
UK Income	35.55	38.03	-0.26	3.21
UK Growth	35.02	37.46	-0.25	2.53
Worldwide Gth	29.69	31.76	+0.09	0.47
TSB UNIT TRUSTS LTD Charlton Place, Andover, Hants. SP10 1RE. 0264 346794				
American	203.16	215.06	+0.58	0.07
-do- Acc	222.04	236.21	+0.64	0.07
British Gth	81.55	86.75†	-0.72	2.12
-do- Acc	95.95	102.07†	-0.85	2.12
European	91.17	96.99†	+0.68	0.94
-do- Acc	96.17	102.31†	+0.72	0.94
Extra Inc	177.37	188.69†	-0.55	4.32
-do- Acc	282.95	301.01†	-0.87	4.32
General Unit	253.49	269.67	-1.06	2.78
-do- Acc	500.19	532.12	-2.09	2.78
Income	311.32	331.19	-1.01	3.79
-do- Acc	634.11	674.59	-2.05	3.79
International	467.54	497.38	-0.66	0.65
-do- Acc	611.14	650.15	-0.87	0.65
Pacific	306.94	326.53	+0.11	0.02
-do- Acc	321.45	341.97	+0.11	0.02
Premier Income	50.53	52.64	-0.09	6.72
-do- Acc	103.79	108.11	-0.20	6.72
Nat Resources	93.49	99.46	-1.29	0.68
-do- Acc	102.52	109.07	-1.41	0.68
Selected Opps	91.22	97.04†	+0.20	1.28
-do- Acc	114.20	121.49†	+0.24	1.28
TARGET TRUST MANAGERS Charlton Place, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1RE. 0264 346747				
American Eagle	125.50	133.90	-0.40	0.23
Australia	7.146	7.650	-0.030	1.05
Equity	180.80	193.60	...	4.41
Euro Spec Sits	140.90	149.50	+0.50	0.58
Financial	39.11	41.90	+0.06	2.50
Global Opps Inc	87.10	93.00	+0.12	2.16
-do- Acc	90.28	96.40	+0.13	2.16
Gold Gen Inc	42.68	45.80	-0.40	0.96
-do- Acc	81.44	87.40	-0.40	0.96
Income	117.20	125.60†	+0.20	4.92
Japan General	138.40	147.20	+1.20	...
Preference	21.78	23.45	-0.05	7.73
UK Capital	100.90	108.20	-0.30	3.12
Worldwide Cap	192.90	205.80	-0.10	3.12
World Income	83.20	88.73	-0.25	3.43
THORNTON UNIT MANAGERS LTD 33 Cavendish Sq, London W1M 7HF. 071 493 7262. Dealing: 071 493 8545				
Amer Sml Cos	71.50	76.26†	+0.28	...
-do- Acc	73.76	78.67†	+0.31	...
Cash	51.53	51.53	+0.02	6.25
-do- Acc	61.52	61.32	+0.02	6.25
European Opps	61.23	65.25	+0.08	0.45
-do- Acc	61.87	65.99	+0.20	0.45
Far East Opps	135.90	144.96†	+1.07	...
-do- Acc	139.07	148.34†	+1.09	...
Gold/Nat. Res	39.12	41.72	+0.50	...
-do- Acc	40.23	42.91	+0.51	...
Japan	69.71	74.35	+0.94	...
-do- Acc	69.71	74.35	+0.94	...
Little Dragons	62.50	66.66	+0.16	0.75
-do- Acc	64.10	68.37	+0.18	0.75
Oriental Income	39.47	42.10†	+0.39	3.59
-do- Acc	50.40	53.76†	+0.15	3.78
Tiger	196.85	209.97	-0.17	1.25
-do- Acc	205.91	219.63	+0.18	1.25
UK Small Cos	65.22	69.75†	-0.34	2.28
-do- Acc	75.96	81.24†	-0.37	2.25
UNITED CHARITIES UNIT TRUSTS Unicorn Hse, 252 Romford Rd, London E7. 081 534 5544				
United Charities	222.30	236.40	...	4.13
WAVERLEY UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 13 Charlotte Sq, Edinburgh EH2 4DJ. 031 225 1551				
Australian Gold	12.25	13.01	-0.08	0.50
Pacific Basin	29.55	31.43	-0.05	0.60
Canadian Gth	38.10	40.53	+0.03	0.10
Global Bond	$0.962	$1.002	-0.001	7.31
Penny Share	21.43	22.79	-0.07	1.50
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS 2 Honey Lane, London EC2V 8BT. 071 600 3132				
City Reserve	52.41	52.41	+0.01	5.85
Gilt Growth	65.72	68.30	-0.46	...
Gilt Income	51.94	54.04†	-0.35	7.80
Short Dtd Gilt	109.70	111.10	-0.20	3.50
US Govmnt Bd	50.712	50.721	-0.000	...
Challenger	91.89	94.00	-0.78	...
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD 2 Whitz Oak Square, Swanley BR8 7AG. 081 298 4000				
Stockmarket Fd	65.76	69.95	+0.25	2.09

Source: Finstat

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; ... No significant data.

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Courtaulds granted leave to allocate pension surplus

BY SARAH BAGNALL

■ The surplus will cut Courtaulds' borrowings by £50 million but a £7.5 million decline in interest income means the net impact on earnings will be negative

COURTAULDS, the international chemicals company, has been given the go-ahead by trustees to allocate its £189 million pension fund surplus, one of the largest in the UK. The company will receive £83 million of the surplus, equivalent to £50 million after tax, and a further £47 million will be used to improve pension benefits.

The deal follows in the footsteps of Courtaulds Textiles, which demerged from Courtaulds in 1990. Last December, the trustees of the retailer's pension fund approved a £19 million after-tax repayment to the company and £15 million worth of pension fund improvements.

The agreement reduces the surplus calculated on the funding basis, a method used by the trustees, from £189 million to about £60 million. On the more conservative government actuary's assumptions, the surplus will fall from 24 per cent, namely £173 million, to 5 per cent, the maximum allowed without a pension fund losing part of its tax-exempt status.

In seven out of the past ten years, Courtaulds has reduced the surplus to the required level by improving pension benefits. However, Michael Pragnell, finance director, said they wanted people to want to work for Courtaulds because of the business, not because of its pension scheme, which could be the case if the benefits were continually enhanced. The company also wanted to put the surplus, which is a dormant asset, to a better use, he added.

The surplus, which ranks in terms of size alongside the pension funds of Reed International, BTR, Blue Circle and Lloyds Bank, is partly the result of the company's contributions in the late 1970s and early 1980s, which "we can now see in retrospect were overly conservative," said Mr Pragnell. Strong stock market performance in the 1980s and the fund's outperformance between 1983 and 1991 of the average UK pension fund — by 2 per cent a year on average — also contributed to the growth in the surplus.

Analysts welcomed the move, pointing out that perversely the company's earnings per share will fall slightly. Under accounting rules, the surplus will cut Courtaulds borrowings by £50 million, reducing gearing by 4 per cent, and in the 1993-4 financial year interest income will fall by £7.5 million from the £18.2 million expected for 1992.

The operating profit credit is also expected to drop, by £2 million from the £3 million anticipated for 1992. About £400,000 of administration costs are also being transfered from the company to the pension scheme. The shares initially fell 14p but ended 7p higher at 559p.

Mr Pragnell said the deal was "good for pension scheme members, good for pensioners, good for the company, good for employees, very good for shareholders and very good for the Inland Revenue".

The company is subject to tax at the rate of 40 per cent on the £83 million that it is recovering from the pension fund. The £50 million net proceeds are to be used to fund Courtaulds' capital expenditure programme, which analysts put at £130 million to £140 million for 1992.

Tempus, page 25

DENZIL McNEELANCE



Adding to the core: Sir David Plastow, the chairman, said Inchcape will acquire or bring in good management at acquisitions

Inchcape seeks to expand further

BY GEORGE SIVELL, CITY EDITOR

INCHCAPE, the motors, marketing and services group, is on the lookout for further acquisitions after the successful digestion of the TKM motor business in February last year.

TKM helped Inchcape raise pre-tax profits by 27.7 per cent to £250.1 million in the year to end-December. Stripping out the impact of acquisitions, Inchcape profits rose 10 per cent during the year at the operating level.

The TKM deal has, however, left its mark on the Inchcape balance sheet. A £76.5 million provision for the value of TKM properties, restructuring and adjustment to a more conservative accounting policy will be found in the notes to the balance sheet when the annual report is published.

Inchcape's debts stand at 31 per cent of shareholders' funds, up from 13 per cent at the end of 1991. The figure is exaggerated by putting some debt that TKM had treated as off-balance sheet back on.

Figures have been presented under the new FRS3 reporting convention. Earnings have risen 3.7 per cent to 31p a share although stripping out the effect of exceptional items they are up 18.4 per cent to 31.6p. Out of this, the total dividend for the year rises by 17 per cent to 13.75p, slightly more than would have been the case before the Chancellor reduced the tax credit on dividends for pension funds and non-taxpayers in the Budget. Operating profits at motors rose from £110.5 million to £177.3 million. Marketing rose from £56.2 million to £58.9 million. Services rose from £43.3 million to £45.9 million.

On acquisitions, Sir David Plastow, the chairman, and Charles Mackay, the chief executive, have set themselves the strategy of adding to the core businesses of motors, marketing and the service business of insurance, shipping testing and buying. Inchcape will also acquire or bring in good management and would appear unlikely to overpay.

Inchcape said that "economic conditions in the countries in which we operate vary considerably and it is difficult to judge the impact at such an early stage in the year". It added that it was "confident that the company will continue to grow, both organically and by acquisition".

Tempus, page 25

Approval sought for Post move

BY OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

A NEW YORK bankruptcy court was asked yesterday to allow the temporary transfer of management of the *New York Post*, the loss-making daily newspaper, to a subsidiary of The News Corporation, the international media group that owns *The Times*.

Rupert Murdoch, chairman of News Corporation, said "very serious obstacles" to a permanent takeover of the paper remained. News Corp previously owned the *Post* but sold it in 1988, after buying a New York television station, to comply with cross-ownership regulations.

Over the weekend, Mr Murdoch reached an agreement with Abe Hirschfeld, who recently took control of the newspaper, which is in chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings. If the court agrees, News Corp will run the *New York Post* for 60 days while a plan is drawn up for the paper's survival.

Thereafter, ownership by News Corp would depend on a permanent waiver of cross-ownership rules by America's Federal Communications Commission, as well as an agreement with creditors and with unions.

Lucas intends to maintain payout

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

LUCAS, the engineer that has long been one of the stock market's favourite takeover candidates, is hoping to pay a maintained dividend this year, without resorting to reserves, although it will have to rely on cash coming in from disposals.

Sir Anthony Gill, the chairman, said there was as yet no sign of the end of the recession in Lucas's main markets.

Lucas was reporting interim results for the half year to end-January and pre-tax profits of £5.2 million, up from a figure of £200,000 in the comparable period ahead of a £90 million one-off pension surplus. The interim dividend is held at 2.1p, although the entire payment is being made out of reserves.

John Grant, the finance director, said while Lucas was not looking for much help from higher sales in the second half, the benefits of the cost-reduction programme would gather pace after a sum of £20 million already taken off the cost base in the first half.

Lucas has announced the proposed sale of non-core businesses worth £100 million, including the aerospace switchgear, ignition and wiring systems businesses based in Coventry and Newcastle under Lyme, which were put on the market yesterday. Together they employ 265 people.

This financial year should see £75 million worth of disposals, although none has yet been completed, which would top up pre-tax profits by £10-15 million, the company said.

Sir Anthony said in the first half some markets had deteriorated more sharply than had been expected and most European markets had been disappointing. But in the United States and Britain "hesitant recoveries" now seemed to be taking hold.

The first-half figures saw a weaker performance from the aerospace side with operating profits down from £10.5 million to £7.2 million. These were more than offset by the automotive division, where profits rose from £2.7 million to £13.2 million. Lucas's third core division, applied technology, saw profits little changed at £4.5 million against £3.9 million.

Lucas shares advanced 2p to 139p.

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Moffat to combine the two top roles at British Steel

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

BRITISH Steel has decided to buck the trend of splitting the roles of chief executive and chairman by putting both jobs in the hands of Brian Moffat, current chief executive.

The decision, after an unexpected request from Sir Alistair Frame, 63, the chairman, to step down on health grounds, is believed to be an interim arrangement to give the board time to seek a new chief executive. Mr Moffat, with BS since 1968, would continue as chairman only.

To try to head off any criticism of saddling Mr Moffat with the dual role, which runs counter to the Cadbury code, which calls for the functions to be held by different people, BS named Sir Nicholas Goodison, TSB Group chairman and BS non-executive director, as deputy chairman with formal responsibility to oversee compliance with requirements of the corporate governance code.

BS gave no indication how long the two top jobs would remain in Mr Moffat's hands, but said that it was up to the board to determine the duration of the arrangement.

A terse statement said that it was with "deep regret" that the board accepted Sir Alistair's resignation, which takes effect on April 30. He steps down after only eight months, but will keep his post as non-executive chairman at Wellcome, the pharmaceuticals group. His doctors are understood to have advised him to reduce his workload. Sir Ronald Halstead will remain as a deputy chairman.

The BS share price hardly moved on the news of Sir Alistair's departure, but Wellcome shares, which dropped sharply last week over concern about the company's prospects, continued falling steeply, closing 52p down at 742p.

Sir Alistair, who succeeded Sir Robert Scholey, the man who chaired the company through privatisation, has hardly had enough time to make much of a mark on BS, which is currently falling deeper in the red, after a pre-tax £55 million loss last year. Although the devaluation of the pound since September has given useful support to BS sales, its loss is expected to widen this year to £200 million, as the downturn in European steel continues.

Analysts consider Mr Moffat, 54, who has been with BS since 1968, fully capable of combining the two jobs, and believe that the departure of Sir Alistair, while regrettable, should not change market perceptions about the company's direction.

Eurotunnel and TML in new row

BY OUR DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

EUROTUNNEL, the Channel tunnel operator, and the group of contractors building the project have fallen out almost immediately over the latest ruling from the tribunal that has the task of arbitrating on their long-running dispute.

Eurotunnel claimed the judgment of the Tribunal of the International Chamber of Commerce had found in its favour on all the substantive issues it was asked to consider and the ruling represented "a very satisfactory outcome in the arbitration of a major contractual dispute".

Transmanche Link responded by accusing Eurotunnel of misrepresenting the findings and said the ruling had no material effect on its claims for cost overruns on the £8.1 billion project. "The decision of the arbitrators positively encourages the continued pursuit of TML's claims before the panel of experts," the builders claimed.

MIKE WILKINSON



Higher tide: Hugh Thomson, left, and Wilson Murray

Steady as she goes at Forth Ports

BY SARAH BAGNALL

FORTH Ports, the Scottish port operator, made pre-tax profits of £10.9 million (£8.2 million) for the year to end-December on an unchanged turnover of £32 million.

There was an extraordinary gain of £1.2 million last year as a result of early repayment of government loans, while a £3 million exceptional cost was included in 1991 profits.

The company, of which Hugh Thomson is chief executive and Wilson Murray is finance director, was privatised last year and operates six ports in the Firth of Forth. It is paying a maiden final dividend of 4.25p, for a total of 6.25p, against the pro forma dividend in the privatisation prospectus of 5.5p. The shares rose 1p to 235p.

Net borrowings fell to £6.8 million from the prospectus pro forma level of £11.1 million and, as a result, gearing dropped from 34 per cent to 18 per cent.

Over a million receive profit-linked pay

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government is to announce that more than a million employees now receive profit-related pay.

Ministers will claim that the crossing of the million threshold for the numbers covered by the profit-related pay tax relief scheme is both a significant benchmark in improving the flexibility of the UK labour market, and an encouraging sign of British employees' readiness to relate their pay directly to their companies' performance.

Profit-related pay (PRP), under which part of an employee's pay is explicitly linked to the profits of the employer, was introduced in the 1986 Budget by Lord Lawson, when he was, as Nigel Lawson, Chancellor. PRP payments increase or decrease in line with profits, and PRP pay is free of tax for up to 20 per cent of an employee's total pay, or £4,000, whichever is the greater.

PRP schemes were slow to take off, but in the last three months of 1992 the number of schemes registered with the Inland Revenue rose 27 per cent, and the number of employees they covered went up 24 per cent, to 973,600.

Figures for the quarter ending tomorrow, to be published by the Revenue at the beginning of May, will show a further increase, taking the number of employees covered through the million barrier.

Howard Davies, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, yesterday praised PRP as a means of improving pay flexibility in a recession. Speaking in London to the Involvement and Participation Association, Mr Davies — who worked on PRP when he was a special adviser to Mr Lawson — said PRP was an important way of getting employees to share in the success of their organisations.

But he also said the government and employers would find it harder in the forthcoming 1993-4 pay round to secure low pay settlements than in the current round.

Competitive pressures and public spending levels were unlikely to change greatly, but inflation would be higher, pushed up both by the mark exchange rate and by tax increases. However, employers ought to try to reach low deals, to maintain downward pressure on their costs.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 071-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

ALLMAT LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Rule 11.2(A) of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the liquidator of the above named company intend paying a first and final dividend to creditors. The creditors of the company are required on or before 30th April 1993 to submit their proofs of debt to the undersigned David A. Relph of St. Paul's House, Warwick Lane, London, EC4P 4BN the Joint Liquidator of the company, and, if so required, to provide such further details or produce such documentary or other evidence as may appear to the liquidators to be necessary. A creditor who has not proved his debt before the date mentioned above is not entitled to disturb, by reason that he has not participated in it, the first dividend or any other dividend before his debt is proved.
Date: 23rd March 1993
Joint Liquidator: David A Relph.

BERNSHAW LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of The Insolvency Act, 1986, that a Meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London, W2 6LF, on Wednesday, the 7th day of April 1993 at 10.00 noon for the purposes provided for in Section 98 of say.
A list of names and addresses of the above Company's Creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co., 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London, W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
Dated the 24th day of March 1993
R BERNSTEIN, Director.

EURO EXPRESS LIMITED
(In Liquidation)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors of the above named company are required on or before the 20th day of April 1993 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to David J Pullen, Ernst & Young, Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU, the Joint Liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, by their solicitor or personally, to come in and prove their said debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated this 22nd day of March 1993.
David John Pullen.
Joint Liquidator.

IN THE MATTER OF ARBUCKLE LIMITED AND IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 notice is hereby given that Stephen James Lister Adamson and Gareth Howard Hughes of Ernst & Young, Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU were appointed Administrators of the above company by the members on 19 March 1993.
Dated this 19th March 1993
G H Hughes, Joint Liquidator

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
ONSLOW MANAGEMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(IN ADMINISTRATION)
Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held under the provisions of Section 25 of the Insolvency Act 1986 at The Chartered Insurance Institute, 20 Aldermanbury, London, EC2V 7HY on Thursday 15 April 1993 at 10.00 am for the purposes mentioned in the Act.
A secured creditor is entitled to vote only in respect of the balance (if any) of his debt after deducting the value of his security as estimated by him.
Creditors who intend to vote at the meeting should note the following:
(a) Written statements of claim must be lodged with the administrator by 12 noon on the day before the meeting at Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London, SE1 7EU.
(b) Proxies for use at the meeting must also be lodged with the administrator.
A R Bloom, Joint Administrator.
Date 24 March 1993

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
PLAZA MANAGEMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(IN ADMINISTRATION)
Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held under the provisions of Section 25 of the Insolvency Act 1986 at The Chartered Insurance Institute, 20 Aldermanbury, London, EC2V 7HY on Thursday 15 April 1993 at 10.00 am for the purposes mentioned in the Act.
A secured creditor is entitled to vote only in respect of the balance (if any) of his debt after deducting the value of his security as estimated by him.
Creditors who intend to vote at the meeting should note the following:
(a) Written statements of claim must be lodged with the administrator by 12 noon on the day before the meeting at Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London, SE1 7EU.
(b) Proxies for use at the meeting must also be lodged with the administrator.
A R Bloom, Joint Administrator.
Date 24 March 1993

IN THE MATTER OF GULF STATES INSURANCE SERVICES LIMITED AND IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 notice is hereby given that Stephen James Lister Adamson and Gareth Howard Hughes of Ernst & Young, Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU were appointed liquidators of the above company by the members on 19 March 1993.
Dated this 19th March 1993
G H Hughes, Joint Liquidator

IN THE MATTER OF RC20 AND IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 notice is hereby given that Stephen James Lister Adamson and Gareth Howard Hughes of Ernst & Young, Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU were appointed liquidators of the above company by the members on 19 March 1993.
Dated this 19th March 1993
Gareth Howard Hughes
Joint Liquidator

LEGAL NOTICES

MARTIN BIERBAUM GROUP PLC
(In Members' Voluntary Liquidation)
Company Number: 1056209
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rules 4.182A and 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the Joint Liquidators of the above company intend to make a distribution to the creditors. Creditors are required to submit full details of their claims and their names and addresses to the Joint Liquidator, Phillip Wedgwood Wallace, KPMG Peat Marwick, PO Box 750, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP on or before Friday 30 April 1993 which is the last day for proving claims. Notice is also given that the Joint Liquidators propose to make final distributions and that such distributions will be made without regard to any claims not made by the date mentioned.
Note: The company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.
Dated: 25 March 1993
P W Wallace

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
MOREPATTY LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the creditors of the above-named company are required, on or before 21 April 1993 ("the last date for proving"), to send in their full names and addresses, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to us, the Joint Liquidators of the company, and, if so required by notice in writing from us, are personally or by their solicitors to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distributions made before such debts are proved.
NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN that the first and final distribution to creditors and members of the company will be made subsequent to the last date for proving and before 10 May 1993.
The company is able to pay all its presently known creditors in full.
Dated this twenty-fourth day of March 1993.
S J L Adamson and G H Hughes
Ernst & Young, Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU
Joint Liquidators.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
CENTRAL HOTEL LIMITED
(IN RECEIVERSHIP)
Registered Number: 2223960
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 46(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at 10.00 am on Thursday 8 April 1993 at the offices of Price Waterhouse, York House, York Street, Manchester, M2 4WS for the purposes mentioned in Section 48 and 49 of the said Act.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or to be represented at the meeting.
Creditors should note that the meeting is not for the purpose of appointing a liquidator to the Company.
Dated this 26th day of March 1993
I C Powell
Joint Administrative Receiver

LEGAL NOTICES

RP MARTIN INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
(In Members' Voluntary Liquidation)
Company Number: 1460401
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rules 4.182A and 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the Joint Liquidators of the above company intend to make a distribution to the creditors. Creditors are required to submit full details of their claims and their names and addresses to the Joint Liquidator, Phillip Wedgwood Wallace, KPMG Peat Marwick, PO Box 750, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP on or before Friday 30 April 1993 which is the last day for proving claims. Notice is also given that the Joint Liquidators propose to make final distributions and that such distributions will be made without regard to any claims not made by the date mentioned.
Note: The company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.
Dated: 26 March 1993
P W Wallace

RP MARTIN FUTURES LIMITED
(In Members' Voluntary Liquidation)
Company Number: 1564233
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rules 4.182A and 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the Joint Liquidators of the above company intend to make a distribution to the creditors. Creditors are required to submit full details of their claims and their names and addresses to the Joint Liquidator, Phillip Wedgwood Wallace, KPMG Peat Marwick, PO Box 750, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP on or before Friday 30 April 1993 which is the last day for proving claims. Notice is also given that the Joint Liquidators propose to make final distributions and that such distributions will be made without regard to any claims not made by the date mentioned.
Note: The company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.
Dated: 26 March 1993
P W Wallace

RP MARTIN (INVESTMENTS) PLC
(In Members' Voluntary Liquidation)
Company Number: 922518
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rules 4.182A and 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the Joint Liquidators of the above company intend to make a distribution to the creditors. Creditors are required to submit full details of their claims and their names and addresses to the Joint Liquidator, Phillip Wedgwood Wallace, KPMG Peat Marwick, PO Box 750, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP on or before Friday 30 April 1993 which is the last day for proving claims. Notice is also given that the Joint Liquidators propose to make final distributions and that such distributions will be made without regard to any claims not made by the date mentioned.
Note: The company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.
Dated: 26 March 1993
P W Wallace

LEGAL NOTICES

WESTMINSTER CREDIT CORPORATION LIMITED
AND WESTMINSTER COMMERCIAL CREDIT LTD
(both in Liquidation)
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
Notice is hereby given that David Ralph of Moore Stephens, St. Paul's House, Warwick Lane, London EC4P 4BN was appointed liquidator of the above named company on 24th March 1993.
Creditors are required on or before 30th April 1993 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their debts to the liquidator and, if so required by notice in writing from the liquidators, are to come in and prove their debts or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated this 25th day of March 1993.
DAVID ROLPH, LIQUIDATOR
NOTE: This notice is purely formal. All known creditors have been, or will be paid in full.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity - The Margaret Hayles Foundation
The Commissioners propose to make an Order removing and appointing trustees of this charity. Copies of the draft Order can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St. Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX, quoting reference SH-24/7/174-M4J (L).
Objections and suggestions can be sent within one month from today.

KING GEORGE'S FUND FOR SAILORS
The Annual General Meeting of King George's Fund for Sailors will be held in Johnson's Hall, London Bridge on Wednesday April 21, 1993 at 3 pm by kind permission of the Prime Warden and Wardens.

Notice. Exeter Friendly Society, Reg. No. 91F.
The sixty-fourth Annual General Meeting of the above Society will be held in Exeter on Wednesday 28th April 1993 at 3.00 p.m. AGENDA To receive the Chairman's Report and Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet for 1992. Election of President, Vice-Presidents and Management Committee Members. To ratify a Partial Amendment of Rules. To consider Incorporation. Admission tickets can be obtained free:- The Chief Executive, Beech Hill House, Walnut Gardens, Exeter EX4 4DG.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE ALL YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS PLEASE CALL DEBRA GYNN
TEL: 071-782 7344 or FAX: 071-481 9313

Notional payout at Brown & Jackson

Brown & Jackson, which owns the Poundstretcher retail chain, reported pre-tax profits of £970,000 for the 15 months to December 31 on sales of £242 million. But Ian Gray, chief executive, said the results included two Christmases and were therefore not typical.

Unaudited figures for the 12 months to December showed a pre-tax loss of £6.6 million. There is a notional dividend of 0.1p, despite a loss of 0.3p a share.

Hotel for sale

Hambro Leasing is selling the Londonderry Hotel on Park Lane, formerly a Brent Walker hotel. The 140-bedroom hotel has been closed since April 1991 for refurbishment but Brent Walker's International Sporting Club Casino is still operating and could generate an annual rent of £600,000. The agent, Weatherall Green & Smith, expect bids of about £33 million.

Benetton boost

Benetton, the Italian clothing and leisure group whose provocative advertisements have prompted widespread criticism, boosted its consolidated net profit 12.1 per cent to 185 billion lire (£77.8 million) last year on turnover up 9.1 per cent. The dividend is raised to 350 lire (300 lire).

Edinburgh up

The market rebound that followed sterling's departure from the European exchange-rate mechanism helped Edinburgh Fund Managers to turn a 25 per cent fall in interim profits into a 5 per cent increase to £5 million in the year to end-January. Funds under management increased 25 per cent to £2.4 billion. The dividend rises 3.8 per cent to 13p.

Amber change

Amber Day, the discount retailer, has appointed its first non-executive director since Philip Green stood down as chairman and chief executive. He is Peter Carr, a former managing director of Debenhams. Stacey Ellis, the new chairman, is currently seeking a second new non-executive.

Aspen ahead

Aspen Communications, supplier of communications products and services, is holding the total dividend at 4.9p a share, with a final dividend of 2.9p. In the year to end-December, pre-tax profits rose to £1.8 million from £1.7 million.

Macallan flat

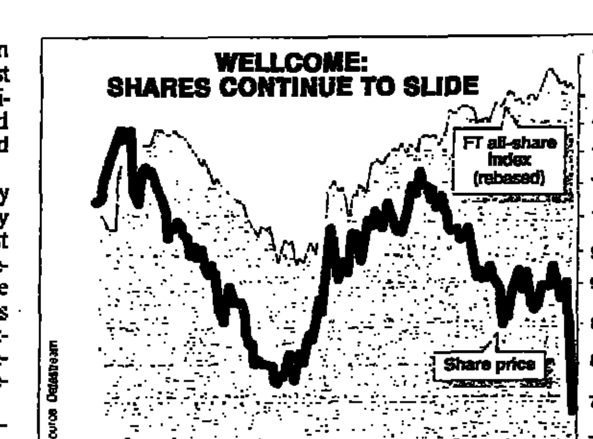
Macallan-Glenlivet, the distiller, reported pre-tax profits a little lower at £7.04 million, against £7.29 million. But a 0.615p dividend makes a final up to 0.915p from 0.7625p.

STOCK MARKET

Pharmaceuticals still look under the weather

DRUG stocks were again looking poorly as the latest bearish wave, including President Clinton's proposed healthcare reforms, continued to sweep through the sector.

Wellcome was particularly hard-hit for the third day running, continuing last week's poor performance, depressed by caution over future growth. This time, the shares suffered a 52p fall to 742p ex-dividend, leaving the pharmaceutical group nursing a three-day deficit of 148p.



The group, the biggest casualty among companies trading without the benefit of the dividend payment, was also surrounded by concern over the exact future of Sir Alistair Frame, chairman. This followed news that Sir Alistair, who is also chairman of **British Steel**, ½p weaker at 83½p, is to step down from the BS board at the end of April, on medical advice to reduce his business commitments.

In the drugs sector, **Glaxo** remained under a cloud, falling 21p to 576p, with the shares depressed by reports that the company is to "correct" allegedly misleading claims about its blockbuster Zantac anti-ulcer drug. Elsewhere, **SmithKline Beecham** A lost 14½p to 392½p, **Fisons** 8p to 189p and **ICI** 11p to £11.84.

Meanwhile, equities drifted lower in thin trade, depressed by the large number of stocks going ex-dividend and concerns about the direction of domestic interest rates. Despite a strong start on Wall Street, shares in London remained in the doldrums as dealers squared their books before the end of the fiscal year. A late recovery helped the FT-SE 100 index end the first day of the new three-week account 6.4 points lower at 2,846.5, after it was down almost 20 points in early dealing. Ex-dividend stocks accounted for nearly 11 points off the index. Volume was only 484.9 million shares, despite being swollen by bed-and-breakfast deals to establish tax losses before the financial year end.

Among those trading without the benefit of the dividend payment, **Unilever** lost 19p to £11.69, despite a buy recommendation and upgrade from Arabella Cecil at Credit Lyonnais Laing. Others in the ex-dividend boat included Midland Bank parent **HSBC Holdings**, down 17p to 604p, **PowerGen**, 12p lower at 333p, **P&O**, 21p off at 562p, **English China Clays**, 13p weaker at 460p, **Enterprise Oil**, down 4p at 506p, **Legal & General**, off 20p at 451p, **Ladbroke**, 8p weaker at 185p, and **BAT Industries**, 18½p softer at 977½p.

Britain's two power generators, **National Power**, up 2p to 338p, and **PowerGen**, received a boost from details of their five-year agreements with the regional electricity companies (RECs) and British Coal. Under the agreements, they will buy coal from British Coal at an initial 151p per gigajoule, against the existing 185p. The RECs will pay an initial average 3.26p per kw/hour, a 12 per cent cut and prices will fall a real 1 per cent in each of the next four years.

But there were disagreements about the real rate of reduction. Some of the RECs suggested the generators were not passing down all the price cuts, while other quarters claimed the distributors will not pass on all of the lower costs to their customers.

Elsewhere, **Tate & Lyle** firmed 4p to 414p, boosted by a buy recommendation from NatWest Securities, against a previous hold, after a recent firming in worldwide sugar prices and a buoyant soft drinks market in America.

Kleinwort Benson has upgraded it profit forecasts for **Marks and Spencer**, unchanged at 339p. KB has lifted this year's forecast by £10 million to £730 million and next year's by £30 million to £800 million. A Goldman Sachs recommendation helped **Tomkins** rise 7p to 251p.

Eurotunnel firmed 2p to 492p as the Channel tunnel group won its costs dispute with the TransManche Link contractor. **Euro Disney** advanced 40p to £11.25p on news that attendances are approaching 11 million.

Cookson eased 1p to 191p, with the fully paid up 3p to 192p, after a 96.3 per cent take-up for its £185.6 million one-for-four 170p-a-share rights issue. **Pearson**, reporting figures ahead of market hopes, rose 27p to 404p, but **Inchape**, also with better than expected profits, eased 4p to 597p.

PHILIP PANGALOS

European Colour, the chemical colour and pigment maker, rose 3p to 22p on news that David Williams, formerly at Usher Walker and Mosaic Investments, had taken a net 5.5 per cent stake. Mr Williams views the holding as "a good investment". There are suggestions that he may join the board in the future.

Sun pays £140m for Hafnia businesses

BY SARAH BAGNALL
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

SUN Alliance, the United Kingdom insurer, is paying £140 million for the insurance and banking subsidiaries of Hafnia, the troubled Danish insurance company, which put the operations up for sale last year.

The purchase, which ends months of speculation over Hafnia's future, is through Codan, Sun Alliance's 71 per cent owned Danish subsidiary, and excludes Hafnia's UK businesses and shareholdings in two other insurance companies. The acquisition, which Codan is financing from existing surplus assets, will reduce Sun Alliance's solvency margin, a measure of financial strength, by about three to five percentage points.

Scott Nelson, general manager at Sun Alliance, which is due to report its 1992 results next week, said the acquisition would strengthen the group's position in Denmark.

He said: "The combined operations of Codan and Hafnia will constitute the largest general insurance business insurer in Denmark and will have around 12 per cent of the life insurance market."

Codan was among several companies, including Baltica, a Danish insurer, to make offers for various parts of Hafnia.

Most of the bids, which had to be in before mid-February, were for the insurance and banking operations.

Hafnia, Denmark's second-largest insurer, which suspended payments to creditors last August because of heavy investment losses on shareholdings in Baltica and Skandia, is expected to announce a substantial loss for the 1992 financial year.

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WALL STREET

Dow up in early trading

New York — Shares were buoyed by stabilisation in bonds and Boris Yeltsin's survival in the latest showdown with the Russian Congress. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 13 points at 3,453 in early trading.

☐ **Tokyo** — The Nikkei average leapt 259.68 points to close at 19,048.38, breaching the 19,000 level for the first time in almost a year.

☐ **Frankfurt** — After an upturn at the start induced by futures buying, shares drifted and the Dax index closed 13.63 points up at 1,674.92.

☐ **Sydney** — Australian shares meandered before rallying at the close with the all-ordinaries index up 1.1 at 1,677.0.

☐ **Hong Kong** — Shares were higher in quiet trade at the close despite profit-taking. The Hang Seng index rose 11.31 to 6,352.56.

(Reuter)

	Mar 29 midday	Mar 26 close
AMP Inc	59	59
AMR Corp	64	63
Abbott Labs	24	23
Aetna Life	46	46
Ahmanson (HF)	19	19
Air Prod & Chem	44	44
Albertson's	55	54
Alcan Alumnm	19	19
Alco Standard	44	44
Allied Signal	67	67
Alum Co of Am	68	68
Amax	18	18
Amerada Hess	53	52
Amer Brands	33	33
Amer Cyanamid	50	50
Amer El Power	36	36
Amer Express	27	27
Amer Genl Corp	31	31
Amer Home Pr	64	63
Amer Intl	126	125
Amer Stores	40	40
Amer T & T	57	56
Ameritech	76	76
Amoco	58	58
Anheuser-Busch	53	52
Apple Computer	51	53
Archer Daniels	26	26
Arkla	8	8
Armco	7	7
Armstrng Wrld	34	34
Asarco	24	24
Ashland Oil	27	27
Atl Richfield	119	118
Auto Data Pro	52	51
Avery Dennison	28	28
Avon Products	61	60
Baker Hughes	23	23
Baltim Gas & El	25	25
Banc One	57	56
Bankamerica	50	49
Bank of NY	57	56
Bankers Tr NY	72	72
Barnett Banks	46	45
Bausch & Lomb	54	54
Baxter Intl	28	28
Becton Dicknsn	36	35
Bell Atlantic	54	54
BellSouth	55	54
Black & Decker	18	18
Block (H&R)	37	37
Boeing	35	35
Boise Cascade	25	25
Borden Inc	26	26
Bristol Myrs Sq	57	57
Browning Ferris	26	25
Burlington Nthn	50	49
CBS	211	210
CNA Financial	94	93
CPC Intl	42	45
CSX	68	68
Campbell Soup	44	43
Can Pacific	15	15
Cpd Cities ABC	533	530
Cpt Holdings	76	77
Carolina Pwr	32	32
Caterpillar	59	59
Central & SW	32	32
Champion Intl	30	30
Chase Manhat	34	34
Chemical Bk	41	40
Chevron Corp	81	80
Chrysler	39	39
Chubb Corp	95	94
Cigna Corp	61	61
Citicorp	29	29
Clorox	51	50
Coastal Corp	26	27
Coca Cola	41	41
Colgate-Palmolive	66	65
Columbia Gas	23	23
Commonw Ed	27	27
Compaq Comp	50	49
Comp Ass Int	24	26
Conagra	27	27
Cons Edison	35	35
Cons Nat Gas	49	48
Cons Rail	58	58
Cooper Inds	52	52
Corning Inc	33	33
Crown Cork	38	38
Dana Corp	46	45
Dayton Hudson	81	80
Deere	54	53
Delta Air Lines	53	51
Deluxe Corp	42	42
Detroit Edison	34	34
Digital Equip	45	45
Dillard Dept St	42	42
Disney (Walt)	44	44
Dominion Res	43	43
Donnelley (RR)	29	29
Dover Corp	48	48
Dow Chemicals	50	50
Dow Jones	31	32
Dresser	20	20
Duke Power	39	39
Dun & Bradstreet	59	59
Du Pont	49	49
Eastman Kodak	55	55
Eaton Corp	86	86
Emerson Elec	58	59
Engelhard Corp	43	42
Enron Corp	60	59
Entergy Corp	35	35
Ethyl Corp	28	27
Exxon	65	65
FMC Corp	48	48
FPL Group	37	37
Federal Express	57	56
Fed Nat Mtge	79	79
First Chicago	41	41
First Interstate	56	55
First Union Rlty	11	11
Fleet Finl Grp	34	35
Fluor Corp	43	42
Ford Motor	53	52
GTE Corp	36	36
Gannett	52	51
Gap Inc Del	32	31
Gen Cinema	35	35
Gen Dynamics	114	113
Gen Electric	90	89
Gen Mills	70	69
Gen Motors	38	38
Gen Reinsurance	117	117
Gen Signal	65	65
Genuine Parts	36	36
Georgia Pac	61	62
Gillette	59	59
Glaxo ADR	17	17
Goodrich (BF)	48	48
Goodyear Tire	75	75
Grace (WR)	38	38
Gt Atl Pac Tea	24	24
Great Wstn Fin	18	18
Halliburton	37	37
Heinz (HJ)	39	39
Hercules	76	75
Hershey Foods	52	53
Hewlett Packard	74	73
Hilton Hotels	48	48
Home Depot	63	62
Homestake	13	13
Honeywell	32	32
Household Intl	70	71
Houston Inds	47	47
Humana	7	7
ITT Corp	79	79
Illinois Tool	72	71
INCO	23	23
Ingersoll Rand	31	31
Inland Steel	22	22
Intel Corp	115	114
IBM	52	51
Intl Flav & Fr	111	111
Intl Paper	63	64
James River Va	19	18
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	40	39
K Mart	24	24
Kellogg	60	60
Kerr-McGee	49	48
Kimberly-Clark	54	53
Knight-Ridder	57	57
Lilly (Eli)	46	45
Limited Inc	24	23
LIN Brdcstng	83	83
Lincoln Nat	80	79
Litton	52	52
Liz Claiborne	37	36
Lockheed Corp	67	62
Louisiana Pac	70	71
MCI Commun	45	45
Marriott	26	26
Marsh & McLnn	95	93
Martin Marietta	73	73
Masco Corp	33	33
May Dept St	78	76
Maytag Corp	13	14
McCaw Cellular	37	37
McDonalds	53	53
McDonnell D	54	54
McGraw Hill	62	62
Mead Corp	43	43
Medtronic	69	69
Mellon Bk	60	60
Melville Corp	47	47
Merck Inc	34	34
Merrill Lynch	71	70
Minnesota Mine	110	109
Mobil Corp	69	69
Monsanto	51	51
Morgan (JP)	69	68
Motorola Inc	65	65
Natl Medical	8	9
Natl Semi	13	12
Natl Service Ind	25	24
Navistar Intr	2	2
NBD Bancorp	35	35
NY Times A	30	30
Newmont Mng	42	43
Niag Mohawk	22	22
Nike-B	77	76
NL Industries	5	5
Nordstrom	32	31
Norfolk Sthrn	63	63
Nthn State Pwr	46	46
Norwest Corp	50	49
Nynex Corp	90	90
Occidental Pet	22	22
Ohio Edison	25	25
Oracle Systems	37	36
Oryx Energy Co	23	23
PNC Financial	34	34
PPG Industries	67	67
Paccar Inc	63	64
Pacificorp	18	17
Pac Enterprises	24	24
Pac Gas & Elect	34	34
Pac Telesis	48	48
Pall Corp	17	17
Panhandle East	23	23
Paramount Comm	48	48
Parker Hannifin	33	33
Penney (JC)	88	87
Pennzoil	58	57
Pepsico	42	42
Pfizer	59	58
Phelps Dodge	50	51
Philadel Elec	29	29
Philip Morris	62	61
Phillips Pet	29	28
Pitney Bowes	42	42
Polaroid	28	28
Price Co	33	33
Primerica	47	46
Procter & Gmbl	49	49
Pub Serv E & G	33	33
Quaker Oats	67	65
Ralston Purina	50	50
Raychem Corp	39	39
Raytheon	57	56
Reebok Intl	35	35
Reynolds Metals	50	50
Roadway Srvcs	62	62
Rockwell Intl	30	29
Rohm & Haas	55	55
Royal Dutch	87	87
Rubbermaid	34	33
Safeco Corp	66	65
St Paul's Cos	80	80
Salomon Inc	38	38
Santa Fe S Pac	14	14
Sara Lee Corp	28	27
Scecorp	48	48
Schering Plough	58	57
Schlumberger	59	58
Scott Paper	36	36
Seagram	28	28
Sears Roebuck	55	54
Shell Trans	51	51
Sherwin Wlms	33	33
Skyline Corp	19	18
Snap-On-Tools	33	32
Southern Co	42	41
Sthwestern Bell	76	75
Sprint Corp	30	30
Stanley Works	45	45
Sun Company	25	25
Suntrust	45	45
Supervalu	31	30
Syntex Corp	18	17
Sysco Corp	25	25
TRW Inc	63	63
Tandem Comp	12	12
Tandy Corp	29	27
Telecom Corp	2	2
Teledyne	21	21
Temple Inland	46	46
Tenneco	46	46
Texaco	63	63
Texas Inst	59	58
Texas Utilities	44	44
Textron	45	45
Time Warner	33	33
Times-Mirror	34	34
Timken	29	28
Torchmark	60	59
Toys R Us	40	40
Transamerica	51	51
Travelers Corp	27	27
Tribune	55	55
Tyco Labs	44	44
UAL Corp	123	122
UST Inc	28	28
USX Marathon	19	20
Unilever NV	115	114
Union Camp	41	43
Union Carbide	17	17
Union Pacific	61	60
Unisys Corp	13	13
USAIR Group	19	18
USF&G Corp	16	16
US Life	37	37
US West	43	43
United Tech	47	47
Unocal Corp	29	29
Upjohn	29	28
VF Corp	53	53
Wal-Mart Stores	32	32
Warner-Lambert	68	68
Waste Mgmnt Inc	34	34
Wells Fargo	106	106
Westinghouse El	15	15
Weyerhaeuser	41	43
Whirlpool	51	51
Whitman	15	14
Winn Dixie	67	67
Woolworth	31	31
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	33	33
Xerox	83	83

BRITISH FUNDS

GOVERNMENT stocks had another quiet day, with little overseas influence after a mixed performance on international bond markets and nervous trading before tomorrow's £3 billion gilt auction.

But short sterling was up, helping shorts outperform longer-dated securities, with another slight steepening in the yield curve. There was also some vaguely optimistic talk of base rates falling further in order to ease any pressure for a rise in mortgage rates from the building societies.

Otherwise there was little direction. The gilt future eased one tick to £105³/₃₂ on a quiet volume of 22,000 contracts traded for the June series. Among stocks, Exchequer 9¾ per cent 1998 firmed two ticks to £111¹³/₃₂ at the shorter end, while Treasury 9 per cent 2012 slipped three ticks to £104²³/₃₂ at the longer end.

1992/93 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
		SHORTS (under 5 years)				
104	100	Treas 12½% 1993	102	...	12.25	5.64
100	95	Fund 6% 1993	100	...	5.99	5.61
107	103	Treas 13¾% 1993	105	...	13.07	5.61
102	96	Treas 8½% 1994	102	..	8.30	5.58
110	104	Treas 14½% 1994	107	-	13.44	5.59
110	103	Exch 13½% 1994	108	...	12.49	5.66
105	98	Treas 10% 1994	104	...	9.55	7.80
110	103	Exch 12½% 1994	108	...	11.49	5.87
105	96	Treas 9% 1994	104	+	8.59	5.92
111	102	Treas 12% 1995	110	...	10.90	6.05
96	88	Gas 3% 1990-95	96	...	3.12	4.92
109	99	Exch 10¼% 1995	108	...	9.43	6.14
116	106	Treas 12¾% 1995	115	+	11.03	6.24
120	109	Treas 14% 1996	119	...	11.76	6.48
125	113	Treas 15¼% 1996	123	+	12.31	6.59
120	108	Exch 13¼% 1996	118	...	11.18	6.62
111	98	Conv 10% 1996	110	+	9.04	6.66
122	109	Treas 13¼% 1997	121	+	10.95	6.83
113	100	Exch 10½% 1997	112	+	9.33	6.76
108	94	Treas 8¾% 1997	107	+	8.15	6.76
132	117	Exch 15% 1997	130	+	11.47	7.02
112	97	Exch 9¾% 1998	111	+	8.75	6.91
		MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)				
103	98	Treas 7¼% 1998	102	+	7.14	6.74
101	86	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	100	+	6.74	6.71
138	123	Treas 15½% 1998	136	+	11.32	7.23
132	107	Exch 12% 1998	121	..	9.91	7.35
112	97	Treas 9½% 1999	110	-	8.56	7.16
124	109	Exch 12¼% 1999	122	-	9.96	7.42
117	101	Treas 10½% 1999	115	-	9.08	7.27
117	100	Conv 10¼% 1999	115	-	8.91	7.34
110	94	Conv 9% 2000	109	-	8.25	7.28
131	114	Treas 13% 2000	129	-	10.03	7.71
115	99	Treas 10% 2001	113	-	8.81	7.69
129	115	Treas 14% 1998-01	127	-	10.94	7.39
114	98	Treas 9¾% 2002	112	-	8.67	7.84
53	46	Treas 8pc 2003	51	-	7.90	7.80
116	100	Treas 10% 2003	113	-	8.78	8.00
122	107	Treas 11½% 2001-04	120	-	9.54	7.96
74	59	Fund 3½% 1999-04	72	-	4.84	7.12
112	96	Conv 9½% 2004	109	-	8.64	8.16
112	96	Conv 9½% 2005	109	-	8.64	8.18
131	116	Treas 12½% 2003-05	129	-	9.69	8.32
101	85	Treas 8% 2002-06	99	-	8.06	8.12
125	110	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	123	-	9.55	8.27
104	89	Treas 8½% 2007	101	-	8.35	8.28
139	123	Treas 13½% 2004-08	136	-	9.86	8.31
		LONGS (over 15 years)				
108	93	Treas 9% 2008	105	-	8.51	8.33
99	85	Treas 8% 2009	96	-	8.25	8.35
108	93	Conv 9% 2011	104	-	8.59	8.47
108	93	Treas 9% 2012	104	-	8.59	8.48
76	62	Treas 5½% 2008-12	73	-	7.45	8.19
97	81	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	93	-	8.30	8.40
135	118	Exch 12% 2013-17	131	-	9.13	8.69
105	91	Treas 8¾% 2017	102	-	8.94	8.53
		UNDATED				
48	39	Consols 4%	46	-	8.58	...
42	39	War Ln 3½%	40	+	8.56	...
63	59	Conv 3½%	62	+	5.62	...
31	24	Consols 2½%	30	-	8.18	...
30	24	Treas 2½%	29	-	8.62	...
		INDEX-LINKED				
133	122	Treas IL 2% 1994	132	+	...	1.38
197	176	Treas IL 2% 1996	196	...	1.63	2.40
109	100	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	108	-	2.08	2.67
166	139	Treas IL 2½% 2001	165	-	2.67	3.02
163	138	Treas IL 2½% 2003	162	-	2.82	3.11
111	101	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	110	...	2.96	3.25
170	137	Treas IL 2% 2006	168	-	3.00	3.22
154	134	Treas IL 2½% 2009	152	-	3.20	3.40
159	129	Treas IL 2½% 2011	157	-	3.27	3.46
131	106	Treas IL 2½% 2013	129	-	3.35	3.52
139	112	Treas IL 2½% 2016	137	-	3.40	3.56
137	107	Treas IL 2½% 2020	132	-	3.46	3.60
111	88	Treas IL 2½% 2024	109	-	3.50	3.63
111	91	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	109	-	3.50	3.63

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Abbey National .... 382p (+9p)
Lloyds .... 523p (+14p)
Guinness .... 483p (+14p)
Sanderson Elec ...... 264p (+14p)
Siebe .... 452p (+9p)
Commercial Union .. 610p (+11p)
Pearson .... 404p (+27p)
United Newspapers .. 565p (+9p)
Rothmans 'B' .... 635p (+9p)
Wardle Storeys .... 440p (+10p)
Body Shop .... 210p (+10p)
QS Holdings .... 300p (+10p)
Sherwood Group ...... 154p (+9p)

FALLS:
Reuters .... 1355p (-10p)
Compass Group ...... 569p (-11p)
Thomson Corp .... 815p (-10p)
Redland .... 443p (-10p)
Sketchley .... 107p (-10p)
Amersham .... 738p (-11p)
ICI .... 1184p (-11p)
Liberty .... 620p (-15p)

Closing Prices Page 26

NEW ISSUES

Anglo United Warrants	½	...
Atreus (20)	21½	...
David Lloyd Leisure (150)	176	...
For & Col US Slr Co (100)	103	...
For & Col US Slr Wts	41	...
Intl Food Machinery (51)	79	...
Motor World (210)	278	...
Pilot Inv Trust (100)	96½	...
Pilot Investment Wts	27	...
Schroder Split Fund (100)	104	+1
-do- Split Fund Cap (20)	20	...
-do- Split Zero Div Pf (100)	101¼	+ ½
Wts & Value Inv Tst (25)	25½	...
Yorkshire Food (110)	125	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

BBA n/p (42)	17½	- ½
BSG n/p (62)	2¼	...
Clyde Petroleum n/p (44)	2	...

FT-SE VOLUMES

Abbey Natl	2,000	Coats Viyella	500	Legal & Gn	544	Scot & New	1,000
Allid-Lyons	1,600	Cm Union	661	Lloyds Bk	1,900	Scot Power	1,000
Anglian W	494	Courtaulds	1,200	MB Cardn	683	Sears	3,400
Argyll Gp	1,900	De La Rue	171	Marks Spr	2,400	Svrn Trent	1,900
Arjo Wiggn	1,200	Eng China	1,100	NFC	610	Shell Trans	2,500
AB Foods	451	Enterpr Oil	1,400	NatWst Bk	3,500	Siebe	1,000
BAA	615	Fisons	3,400	Nat Power	469	SmKl Bch	4,400
BAT Inds	2,100	Forte	1,700	Nth Wst W	1,500	Smith Nph	1,500
BOC	444	GRE	892	Nthrn Fds	667	Smith (WH)	1,000
BP	4,900	GUS A	213	P & O	1,300	Sthrn Elec	245
BT	5,900	Gen Acc	635	Pearson	3,300	Std Chartd	528
BTR	2,400	Gen Elec	2,900	PowerGen	1,900	Sun Allnce	1,100
Bk of Scot	1,100	Glaxo	8,900	Prudential	2,600	TI Gp	1,400
Barclays	3,700	Granada	373	RTZ	1,000	TSB	4,500
Bass	1,500	Grand Met	2,100	Rank Org	1,100	Tate & Lyle	2,300
Blue Circle	498	Guinness	1,800	Reckitt Col	565	Tesco	5,800
Boots	1,400	HSBC	3,500	Redland	1,800	Thames W	943
Bowater	1,200	Hanson	5,700	Reed Intl	1,000	Thm EMI	683
Brit Airwys	2,300	ICI	2,200	Rentokil	1,000	Tomkins	2,400
Brit Gas	6,400	Inchcape	1,600	Reuters	523	Unilever	600
Brit Steel	4,700	Kingfisher	914	Rothmans	33	Utd Bisc	1,600
Burmah Cast	78	Kwik Save	69	Ryl Ins	1,400	Vodafone	3,400
Cable Wire	1,000	LASMO	3,200	Ryl Bk Scot	1,300	Wellcome	4,200
Cadbury	631	Ladbroke	2,000	Sainsbury	2,100	Whitbd 'A'	718
Carlton Cme	973	Land Secs	1,200	Scot Hydro	1,200	Wlms Hld	1,200

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 3463.75 (+23.77)
S&P Composite .... 450.97 (+3.19)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Av'ge .... 19048.38 (+259.68)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 6322.90 (-18 35)

Amsterdam:
CBS Tendency .... 106 4 (same)

Sydney: AO .... 1677.0 (+1.0)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 1674.92 (-13 63)

FT 30 share: .... 2214.4 (-0.2)

Brussels:
General .... 6250.77 (+11.18)

Paris: CAC .... 544.53 (+5.29)

Zurich: SKA Gen .... 495.0 (+3.8)

London:
FT A All-Share .... 1394.92 (-3.21)
FT 500 .... 1529.82 (-4.15)
FT Gold Mines .... 103.2 (-1.2)
FT Fixed Interest .... 111.53 (-0.14)
FT Govt Secs .... 96.24 (-0.10)
Bargains 36026
SEAQ Volume 454.9m
USM (Datastm) .... 132.09 (+0.30)

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
March 22	April 2	July 1	July 12

Call options were taken out on 30/3/93: ASDA, Brent Walker, Casket, City of London, Erskine Hse, Explaura, Ferranti, Flextech, Kunick, Medeva, QS Hldgs, MTM, Premier, 600 Group, Speyhawk Pref, Tadpole. **Puts:** Amber Day, Brent Walker, Flextech. **Puts & Calls:** ASDA, Crest Nicholson, Downiebrae, Hartstone, Medeva.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 40343	Jun 93	2849.0	2874.5	2848.0	2866.0	5799
	Sep 93	2883.0	2883.0	2883.0	2884.0	10
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 255593	Jun 93	94.18	94.28	94.18	94.26	22821
	Sep 93	94.35	94.43	94.34	94.42	4959
	Dec 93	94.31	94.38	94.31	94.37	2319
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 16434	Jun 93	96.64	96.67	96.64	96.66	348
	Sep 93	96.42	96.44	96.42	96.46	96
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 491686	Jun 93	92.95	92.97	92.93	92.96	12413
	Sep 93	93.74	93.78	93.73	93.77	10146
US Treasury Bond Previous open interest: 0	Jun 93				109-11	0
	Sep 93				108-05	0
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 67459	Mar 93	104-15	104-16	104-02	104-03	4241
	Jun 93	105-02	105-08	104-30	105-03	25222
Japanese Govmt Bond	Jun 93	107.97	108.05	107.93	108.06	666
	Sep 93				107.60	0
German Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 148359	Jun 93	95.87	95.93	95.64	95.76	40843
	Sep 93	95.82	95.85	95.82	95.96	10
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 16459	Jun 93	91.89	91.93	91.86	91.92	675
	Sep 93	92.77	92.84	92.77	92.85	183
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 36211	Jun 93	95.47	95.55	95.42	95.53	4789
	Sep 93	95.88	95.92	95.87	95.91	846
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 47121	Jun 93	95.30	95.50	95.03	95.24	10573
	Sep 93				95.02	0

MONEY MARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1985 was same at 79.3 (day's range 79.2-79.4).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for March 29	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.7222-2.7293	2.7223-2.7256	⅜-¼ds	1-1¼ds
Brussels	49.93-50.16	50.06-50.16	10-19ds	28-42ds
Copenhagen	9.3250-9.3520	9.3270-9.3490	4-7¼ds	12-19¼ds
Dublin	0.9966-1.0000	0.9966-0.9987	26-32ds	83-93ds
Frankfurt	2.4230-2.4327	2.4287-2.4319	⅜-¼ds	1⅛-1⅜ds
Lisbon	225.06-225.74	225.21-225.67	227-251ds	558-609ds
Madrid	173.51-174.73	174.03-174.27	115-140ds	349-398ds
Milan	2386.20-2397.80	2391.40-2396.10	10-12ds	31-34ds
Montreal	1.8538-1.8592	1.8571-1.8592	0.22-0.08pr	0.36-0.19pr
New York	1.4900-1.4930	1.4900-1.4910	0.35-0.34pr	1.01-0.98pr
Oslo	10.3240-10.3550	10.3290-10.3520	1¼-3⅛ds	6¼-9¼ds
Paris	8.2170-8.2600	8.2170-8.2310	3¼-3⅞ds	9¼-10¼ds
Stockholm	11.5120-11.5670	11.5430-11.5670	2⅞-5¼ds	10-12⅞ds
Tokyo	174.13-174.75	174.55-174.75	⅜-¼pr	1¼-1pr
Vienna	17.02-17.12	17.07-17.12	2¼-3¼ds	6⅞-8¼ds
Zurich	2.2439-2.2507	2.2446-2.2477	¼pr-par	⅝-⅜pr

Source: Extel. Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.4910-1.4935
Australia dollar	2.1068-2.1098
Bahrain dinar	0.557-0.567
Brazil cruzeiro *	36678.1-36707.2
Cyprus pound	0.72-0.73
Finland marka	8.178-8.302
Greece drachma	327.5-334.5
Hong Kong dollar	11.5269-11.5362
India rupee	46.16-47.12
Kuwait dinar KD	0.451-0.461
Malaysia ringgit	3.8609-3.8651
Mexico peso	4.53-4.63
New Zealand dollar	2.7947-2.8019
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.5345-5.6605
Singapore dollar	2.4452-2.4484
S Africa rand (fin)	6.7892-6.8386
S Africa rand (com)	4.7375-4.7430
U A E dirham	5.418-5.542

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Australia	1.4130-1.4140
Austria	11.42-11.44
Belgium (Com)	33.50-33.54
Canada	1.2459-1.2464
Denmark	6.255-6.265
France	5.5325-5.5375
Germany	1.627-1.628
Hong Kong	7.731-7.732
Ireland	1.493-1.495
Italy	1601.0-1606.0
Japan	116.83-116.88
Malaysia	2.5895-2.5905
Netherlands	1.827-1.828
Norway	6.93-6.94
Portugal	151.05-151.25
Singapore	1.640-1.641
Spain	116.70-116.90
Sweden	7.732-7.742
Switzerland	1.5077-1.5087

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 5¼ Low 3 Week fixed: 5¼
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5⅞; 3 mth 5¼. Sell: 2 mth 5⅝; 3 mth: 5⅝.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5⅞-5¼	5⅞-5¼	5⅞-5⅝	5⅞-5⅝	
Sterling Money Rates:	6-5⅞	6-5⅞	6-5⅞	5⅞-5⅝	
Interbank:	6-5⅞	6-5⅞	6-5⅞	5⅞-5⅝	5⅞-5⅝

Overnight: open 5⅞, close 3.

Local Authority Deps:	6	n/a	6	5⅞	5⅞
Sterling CDs:	5⅞-5⅞	5⅞-5⅞	5⅞-5⅞	5⅞-5⅞	5⅞-5⅞
Dollar CDs:	3.10-3.07	n/a	3.12-3.09	3.25-3.22	3.43-3.40
Building Society CDs:	6-5⅞	6-5⅞	6-5⅞	5⅞-5⅞	5⅞-5⅞

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Feb 26, 1993 Agreed rates Mar 24, 1993 to Apr 25, 1993 Scheme I: 7.35 %. Schemes II & III: 7.47 %. Reference rate Jan 30, 1993 to Feb 26, 1993 Scheme IV & V: 6.228 %.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-3⅛	3⅜-3⅛	3⅛-2⅞
Deutschemark:	8⅝-8¼	8¼-8⅛	8-7⅞	7⅞-7⅝	8⅛-7⅞
French Franc:	11⅛-11	11⅛-11⅛	10⅛-10⅞	9⅞-9⅝	11⅞-10⅞
Swiss Franc:	5⅞-5⅝	5⅞-5⅝	5⅝-5⅜	4⅞-4⅝	5⅜-4⅞
Yen:	4⅛-4⅛	3⅞-3⅝	3⅝-3⅜	3⅝-3⅜	3⅛-2⅞

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $331.80-332.10 Close $331.75-332.25 High: $331.80-332.30 Low $331.10-331.60 Krugerrand: $331.00-333.00 (£221.50-223.50)
Sovereigns: Old $79.00-83.00 (£51.00-53.00) New $79.00-83.00 (£51.00-53.00)
Platinum: $335.35 (£238.10) Silver: $3.73 (£2.495) Palladium: $109.50 (£73.35)

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
All'd Lyon	550	30	43	56	3	23	33
(*574)	600	5	20	31	30	56	62
ASDA	57	5	9	12	3	6	9
(*61)	66	2	6	6	8	13	15
[illegible]	500	47	60	72	2	13	19
(*540)	550	10	29	43	16	36	41
Boots	460	25	45	55	4	16	20
(*476)	500	6	23	34	24	35	40
Br Airways	220	10	20	27	7	24	27
(*225)	390	7	11	19	21	36	40
BP	250	20	37	43	3	8	13
(*261)	280	12	25	30	5	16	21
	300	2	12	10	24	23	38
Br Steel	55	6	10	11	2	7	9
(*57)	90	1	5	7	3	13	14
C & W	700	35	60	74	4	27	36
(*720)	750	9	34	49	26	53	62
CU	550	50	50	58	4	17	27
(*583)	620	4	22	33	30	41	53
Courtauld	550	13	31	42	12	33	39
(*555)	600	1	13	25	52	67	72
GKN	460	12	32	40	11	24	34
(*460)	500	2	15	22	42	49	59
Grnd Met	420	28	44	50	3	15	21
(*437)	460	5	22	31	24	36	41
ICI	1200	15	64	76	34	69	93
(*1192)	1250	5	45	59	72	102	123
	1300	1	29	42	120	139	157
Kingfisher	535	30	46	55	4	21	29
(*562)	554	4	22	32	29	48	55
Ladbroke	180	11	22	29	3	12	18
(*184)	200	3	13	19	17	23	30
Land Sec	500	21	30	36	3	22	24
(*517)	550	3	8	16	37	57	57
M & S	330	12	25	30	4	13	17
(*339)	360	3	10	18	23	33	34
Sainsbury	460	27	39	51	3	17	22
(*480)	500	7	20	32	23	39	43
Shell	550	26	45	53	3	11	19
(*572)	600	3	15	26	30	37	47
SmKl Bch	390	14	32	41	8	24	29
(*398)	420	4	20	20	30	45	47
Storehse	190	12	21	26	4	12	16
(*187)	200	3	11	17	14	23	27
Trafalgar	74	5	11	13	7	7	10
(*77)	85	2	7	10	7	13	15
Unilever	1150	33	69	95	10	31	41
(*1169)	1200	9	46	67	40	57	64
Utd Bsc	390	16	34	44	6	18	24
(*400)	420	3	18	25	24	34	40

Series		Calls May	Aug	Nov	Puts May	Aug	Nov
BAA	750	55	69	85	5	22	30
(*797)	800	24	40	54	29	42	54
BAT Ind	950	50	77	96	21	32	57
(*977)	1000	23	51	61	49	65	65
BTR	550	34	65	71	4	10	17
(*597)	600	18	32	41	15	29	39
Br Aero	260	26	40	51	14	31	38
(*265)	280	15	27	42	32	42	50
Br Telcom	420	26	37	43	6	15	20
(*439)	460	3	16	23	27	38	42
Cadbury	460	35	41	50	7	14	22
(*483)	500	12	25	35	26	33	40
Guinness	460	25	37	47	15	25	32
(*482)	500	7	19	30	44	50	54
GEC	300	16	22	26	6	14	16
(*307)	330	4	9	13	25	34	35
Hanson	220	22	24	28	2	6	9
(*237)	240	9	13	17	9	14	15
LASMO	160	14	22	27	11	16	22
(*163)	180	6	13	19	23	29	34
Lucas	130	16	21	25	6	10	16
(*138)	140	9	16	20	11	13	21
P & O	550	22	50	60	19	31	47
(*560)	600	11	29	39	48	59	77
Pilkngtn	110	13	13	23	5	9	13
(*119)	120	5	12	15	9	15	18
Prudential	300	34	41	46	3	8	13
(*330)	330	13	23	30	13	19	26
RTZ	650	38	60	74	15	28	39
(*672)	700	14	34	45	43	54	65
Scot New	460	18	29	37	14	32	37
(*464)	500	5	13	20	42	57	63
Tesco	240	11	18	24	11	17	22
(*240)	260	4	11	16	22	31	35
Thames W	500	51	55	60	3	13	17
(*543)	550	15	23	30	20	36	41
Vodafone	360	28	38	48	11	18	25
(*377)	390	11	22	33	26	34	41

FT-SE INDEX (*2844)

	2700	2750	2800	2850	2900	2950
Calls						
Apr	163	108	65	38	19	7
May	181	142	107	67	45	27
Jun	194	157	116	92	67	47
Jul	212	175	142	113	100	68
Dec	280	-	210	-	165	-
Puts						
Apr	6	12	23	41	79	147
May	21	32	44	69	97	134
Jun	33	46	63	85	110	137
Jul	43	56	73	92	120	143
Dec	80	-	123	-	160	-

Series		Calls Mar	Jun	Sep	Puts Mar	Jun	Sep
Abbey Nat	360	34	41	49	3	15	21
(*382)	390	15	26	34	23	31	35
Amstrad	30	6	8	10	2	3	4
(*34)	35	4	6	7	5	5	6
Barclays	390	38	49	56	13	23	28
(*413)	420	22	32	42	26	37	42
Blue Circ	220	13	20	27	17	23	29
(*219)	240	6	13	19	32	37	40
Br Gas	280	27	30	32	6	10	16
(*303)	300	12	18	23	16	19	26
	330	3	7	11	39	40	45
Dixons	220	16	22	27	18	20	31
(*214)	240	8	13	20	32	41	45
Eurotnnl	460	59	79	97	23	37	44
(*491)	500	38	55	76	42	57	65
Forte	150	24	29	33	[illegible]	12	17
(*200)	200	11	18	23	18	23	28
Glaxo	550	52	72	80	25	35	52
(*574)	600	25	44	58	52	67	70
	650	15	32	39	90	98	112
HSBC	600	40	59	73	32	45	57
(*603)	650	21	38	52	21	39	52
Hillsdwn	140	18	21	25	7	11	14
(*155)	160	7	12	17	20	21	26
Lonrho	90	13	22	23	13	3	14
(*79)	90	10	15	10	21	21	21
Reuter	1350	78	115	145	57	55	102
(*1354)	1400	55	87	122	84	113	130
R Royce	120	10	15	13	4	13	16
(*121)	130	6	11	14	15	19	23
Sears	90	14	14	16	3	5	6
(*102)	100	6	8	10	7	8	12
Thm Emi	950	65	74	87	19	35	45
(*970)	1000	30	46	60	39	64	71
TSB	160	19	23	26	6	12	14
(*173)	180	3	13	17	17	22	25
Vaal Reefs	40	7	9	11	2	3	5
(*42)	45	5	6	9	4	7	8
Wellcome	700	70	93	108	21	34	42
(*738)	750	42	64	83	43	57	70
Series		**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**
Fisons	180	16	25	35	4	17	25
(*183)	200	5	10	24	14	29	34
Series		**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
Eastn Elc	460	30	39	45	9	24	29
(*475)	500	9	19	26	31	48	52
Series		**Mar**	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Sep**
Natl Pwr	330	22	28	35	12	22	26
(*337)	360	9	15	22	30	39	42
Scot Pwr	270	50	61	62	1	3	5
(*326)	290	40	44	46	2	7	9

March 30, 1993 Tot: 14037 Calls 11235 Puts 2702 FT-SE Calls 3675 Puts 1191
*Underlying security price.

COMMODITIES

GNI REPORT: Coffee was marked sharply lower, as London adjusted itself to the sharp sell-off in New York at the close on Friday night. There was no apparent reason for the move, but traders were clearly worried that the ICO talks on a new coffee pact were running out of time. Either solid progress has to be made before March 31 deadline, or the idea of a new price support pact will have to be scrapped.

LONDON FOX
COCOA
Mar .... 654-675 May 770-767
May .... 652-642 Jul 735-750
Jul .... 705-704 Sep .... 796 BID
Sep .... 717-716 Dec 524-520
Dec 737-735
Mar .... 757-755 Volume: 1066

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)
Mar .... 903 SLR Nov 872-871
May .... 872-870 Jan 884-882
Jul .... 843-841 Mar .... 896 SLR
Sep .... 857-855 Volume: 2053

RAW SUGAR (FOB)
C Czarnikow Dec 220.0-10.0
Spot: 225.4 Mar .... unq
May .... 227.0-53.0 May 223.0-24.0
Aug .... 226.0-65.0 Aug .... unq
Oct .... 235.6-44.0 Volume: 11

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)
Reuters Dec 287.0-84.0
Spot: 295.9 Mar 284.5-84.0
May .... 302.0-01.0 May 296.0-92.5
Aug .... 305.0-04.0 Aug 290.5-85.5
Oct .... 255.0-87.5 Volume: 134

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 30

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	91.00	132.55	132.16
(+/-)	-0.40	+6.90	-1.44
Eng/Wales	91.12	132.90	132.03
(+/-)	-0.43	+5.92	-0.31
(%)	-21.5	-33.5	-40.0
Scotland:	50.99	131.39	132.93
(+/-)	-7.22	+6.90	-1.66
(%)	-77.3	-21.4	-25.4

LONDON MEAT FUTURES
Live Pig (£/kg)

	Open	Close		Open	Close
Jul	105.0	105.0	Dec	102.0	102.0
Sep	102.0	102.0		Volume: 39	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES
WHEAT (close £/t)
May 143.60
Jun 144.90
Sep 106.40
Nov 110.50
Jan 113.45
Volume: 31

BARLEY (close £/t)
May 139.00
Sep 106.75
Nov 109.65
Jan 112.50
Mar 114.25
Volume: 0

HI-PRO SOYA (close £/t)
Apr 145.80
Jun 140.00
Aug 140.50
Oct 144.30
Dec .... unq
Volume: 0

POTATO

	Open	Close
(£/t)		
Apr	43.0	41.8
May	43.5	42.0
Apr	unq	93.5
	Volume: 172	

RUBBER
No 1 RSS CIF (p/kg)
May 62.00-62.50

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm): The six hours time difference between London and New York restricted trade.

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.65	+0.15
Brent 15 day (Apr)	18.75	+0.15
Brent 15 day (May)	18.85	+0.15
W Texas Intermediate (May)	20.50	+0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	20.60	+0.20

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Gas .15	202 (+2)	204 (+2)
Gasoil EEC	176 (-1)	177 (-1)
Non EEC 1H Apr	177 (n/c)	178 (+1)
Non EEC 1H May	175 (+2)	176 (+2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	75 (n/c)	76 (n/c)
Naphtha	174 (+1)	176 (+1)

IPE FUTURES
GNI Ltd
GAS OIL
Apr .... 174.50-74.75 Jul 173.25-73.50
May .... 173.00-73.25 Aug 175.00-75.50
Jun .... 172.00-72.25 Sep 176.75-77.25
Vol: 8566

BRENT (6.00pm)
May .... 18.84-18.86 Aug 18.90-18.93
Jun .... 18.90-18.93 Sep .... unq
Jul .... 18.86-18.90 Vol: 14727

UNLEADED GASOLINE
Apr .... 203.00-05.50 Jul .... 210.00 SLR
May .... 201.50-07.00 Aug .... 213.50 SLR
Jun .... 200.00-06.50 Vol: 39

BIFFEX
GNI Ltd ($10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 93	—	—	1502
Apr 93	1490	1482	1486
May 93	1435	1429	1433
Jul 93	1280	1275	1274

Vol: 84 lots. Open int'st: 3082 Index: 1501 +1

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (Official) (Volume prev day) Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A (£/tonne)	1432.0-1432.5	1458.0-1458.5	732925
Lead (£/tonne)	273.50-274.00	283.00-283.25	99750
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	997.0-967.5	1007.0-1007.5	181125
Tin ($/tonne)	5620.0-5625.0	5685.0-5686.0	13345
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1140.0-1141.0	1163.5-1164.0	578150
Nickel ($/tonne)	6060.0-6065.0	6070.0-6075.0	47292

Volkswagen picks a Jesuit to steer it back to the fast lane

The ailing carmaker has pinned its faith on a top manager who is set to tackle cost-cutting with puritanical zeal, says Colin Narbrough



When VW was still lean and fit: Beetles rolling off the production line at Wolfsburg in the 1970s

The Protestant work ethic used to be thought one of the Prussian virtues on which Germany's rise as an industrial superpower rested. But as the phoenix years of the *Wirtschaftswunder* fade into history, fears are mounting that consensual industrial relations, short hours and high earnings have turned German workers soft — and that past streams of handsome profits have left managers soft, too.

The recession that followed the reunification boom, and the new economic constellations in central and eastern Europe, appear to have delivered the shock many industrialists had long awaited. In the car industry, a central pillar of Germany's industrial success, slumping demand and profits are providing the goad for change.

At Volkswagen, Ferdinand Piëch, the new management board chairman, is putting the finishing touches to the team that could breathe new life into the industry, and into the economy at large. Having brought VW's Audi subsidiary to success, he is seeking to transform the whole group.

Surprisingly, in a corporate culture prone to grow its management in-house, Herr Piëch has tempted across from General Motors an elite team of Spanish and Dutch executives, headed by José Ignacio López de Arriortúa, to deliver efficiency and lower costs. German carmakers know these are vital, if they are to keep up with Japanese and other Pacific Rim producers.

The public tug-of-war with GM, where Señor López was in charge of a *$50 billion purchasing budget*, demonstrated the value Herr Piëch places on the 52-year-old production engineer from Bilbao, in northern Spain. As head of a new VW sector, production optimisation and procurement, Señor López is expected to make the group marques — VW, Audi, Seat and Skoda — as lean and mean as the toughest Japanese rival.

Judging by his performance at GM, it is no wonder that VW shares have shone brightly on the Frankfurt exchange. As purchasing overlord at GM, Señor López demanded that weekly payments to suppliers be cut by $100 million. An ardent Catholic and practitioner of Jesuitical bodily denial, he earned nicknames, such as "Grand Inquisitor" and the "Strangler of Rüsselsheim" (site of the main Opel factory) during his stint with GM in Germany.

That is not to say he is simply an ascetic cost-killer. Indeed, his fans argue that he will pursue his almost religious quest for efficiency into suppliers' factories as much as at VW. When at Opel, he was known for never taking no for an answer. If a supplier said it could not deliver a component for the price Opel was offering, Señor López would send his production engineers to the supplier's plant and show them how to lower the cost. His reputation for lecturing his staff on healthy eating and frugal living (he wants no deals done on the golf course or in restaurants) fits well with his search for manufacturing efficiency.

Under Carl Hahn, Herr Piëch's predecessor, the VW group expanded rapidly, bringing Seat of Spain and Skoda, the Czech marque, into its fold. Group turnover rose almost 13 per cent last year, to a record DM85.4 billion. There was no doubt which was Europe's biggest carmaker.

The reason Señor López was called for was the 87 per cent slump in group net profit, to just DM147 million. In its core motor vehicle production business (that is, excluding car-leasing and car-financing), VW last year lost more than DM1 billion. The dividend was cut from DM11 to DM2. With the car boom over, and German registrations in the first two months of this year down more than 26 per cent on 1992, improved profit margins have become the priority.

The shock therapy Herr Piëch is about to give VW will go deeper and wider than the 30,000-plus cuts in jobs scheduled to take place by the end of next year. Huge savings are to be made in production methods and supplies. Mentally re-directing the survivors of the current 276,000 workforce towards profit will be crucial.

The progress of Herr Piëch's strategy will be closely monitored by BMW, the German carmaker that has best ridden out the downturn. Eberhard von Kuenheim, head of BMW for 23 years, has made sure the man who succeeds him later this year — Bernd Pischetsrieder, a 45-year-old profit-oriented engineer — will give VW a good fight.

BMW has also seen sales drop this year, but is still going strong, given world economic conditions. The group turnover figure in the first quarter was 6.4 per cent down on 1992, at DM7.3 billion. The company overtook Mercedes-Benz in volume terms last year, which saw net profit slip by DM57 million to DM726 million on 4.7 per cent higher turnover.

While Mercedes struggles to make its vehicle range more attractive to a broader market, BMW's continued success, sustained profits and high capacity usage should cope well with the return of Señor López to the German stage.

VW's rivals would be well-advised to look beyond the immediate shake-up Herr Piëch is engineering. At GM, Señor López had wanted to take lean production techniques beyond the peaks climbed by the Japanese. He was turned down on financial grounds at GM, but is understood to have made support for his dream project, to be realised in his native Basque country, a condition for switching to VW.

He envisages a state-of-the-art car plant that would save the European industry from being overwhelmed by the Japanese. The aim is car assembly in less than ten hours, with suppliers helping to put parts into vehicles in an as yet untried fashion. The result could be that the time taken to build a car would be half that needed today by the best Japanese plants.

German components suppliers, however, are likely to be worried by VW's new Spanish-style management. Ominously, Señor Lopez has said that Valeo, the French components company, is one of his favourite suppliers. With the strong mark, he is likely to go bargain-hunting outside Germany. Bosch, a leading components group, is reducing capacity and plans to shift more production out of Germany to Wales and Spain.

Even Chancellor Kohl, a phlegmatic Rhinelander, last week called for a radical overhaul of Germany's economic, social and educational systems to keep the country in industry's premier division. He pointed out that Germany had the shortest working week, the oldest students and the youngest pensioners among industrial countries. Knowing that much cheaper labour is available beyond its eastern frontier and in other EC countries, such as Britain and Italy, Herr Kohl is pressing for longer working hours, and more flexible working and retirement arrangements. A successful industrial nation, the Chancellor said, "cannot be organised like a collective amusement park". Fair enough, Señor López?

TEMPUS

Running for cover

LUCAS had to work hard to produce the positive interim earnings figure it promised the City last year. Diluted earnings per share of 0.7p may not look impressive. But they would have looked far sicker had the group not credited its profits with a £4.1 million one-off gain from the unwinding of an interest rate swap and added in another £7.6 million in notional interest from various bonds, options and warrants that will not be converted for years, if at all.

The group says it will cover a maintained £49 million dividend at the year end. With many of its automotive and aerospace markets deteriorating daily, this will be even harder to achieve. Fortunately, the group should be able to make profits of up to £15 million on its £100 million disposal programme so it may just scrape through.

Whether Sir Anthony Gill, the chairman, should be so intent on maintaining the dividend is another matter. It is a commitment that Lucas's new chief executive, when he is appointed, may regret. More than two-thirds of the group's sales are derived from the aerospace and European motor industry, and words like flat, depressed and frustrating in Sir Anthony's interim statement, suggest that the group will be struggling for the foreseeable future, despite the claim that it is removing £85 million from the cost base.

In the City, Lucas remains a favourite candidate for a bid, and a share price of 139p, close to net asset value, reflects more than just recovery hopes. Only a particularly generous acquirer would pay much of a premium, given the outlook for the group's main markets.

Inchcape

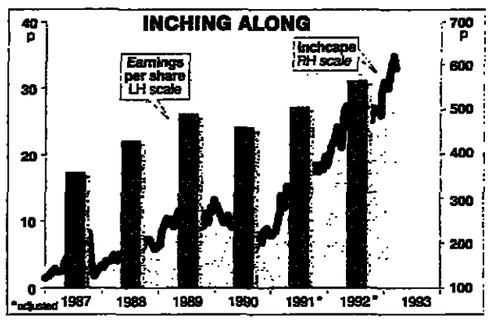
IN SUCH troubled times, it is surprising to find a motor distributor performing well, yet Inchcape has bucked the recession and gone from strength to strength.

The group's success is partly because of a high proportion of overseas earnings. More than 80 per cent of profits were derived outside Britain, particularly in high growth markets such as Southeast Asia. This has protected it from the worst of the recession and will provide currency benefits, of as much as £30 million this year.

The strongest growth was the motors division, which accounts for more than half the operating profit. The acquisition of TKM was responsible for the main increase, but even without its contribution, the sector's profit rose 17 per cent. The purchase of TKM may have appeared expensive, but it was perfectly timed, since the abolition of car tax and the interest rates fall have reversed the decline in car sales.

Inchcape is one of the largest distributors of Japanese cars worldwide. The newly opened Toyota manufacturing plant in Derbyshire will yield further benefits in the coming year. In the first two months alone, profits from the British motor business are up 30 per cent.

With a full year's contribution from TKM in 1993, Inchcape seems to have locked in another year of strong earnings' growth. On sustainable profits of £290 million, a prospective p/e of 17.3 times looks reasonable.



Courtaulds

THERE is an odd logic in an accounting convention that allowed Courtaulds to credit £21 million to its profits each year from the non-cash benefit of a pension surplus, but halves the figure as soon as the group wants to take advantage of that surplus. The accounting standard SSAP24 was devised to expose the costs for companies with their pension funds in deficit and has shortcomings when applied to surpluses.

By transferring £50 million of the pension surplus into its own bank accounts, Courtaulds' pre-tax profits will fall an estimated net £6 million in 1993-4 even though in cash terms the group will be almost £6 million better off.

Courtaulds' pensioners, may not be overjoyed at fund money helping to repay company borrowings, and even less happy that the Revenue is taking £33 million in tax from the transfer. Since they receive benefits of £47 million they are unlikely to complain too loud.

At least the City appreciated the transfer since up to an eighth of Courtaulds' profits will come from pension benefits in the year just ending, and investors were naturally concerned about quality of earnings. The cash inflow will pay for half this year's capital spending programme, and should keep gearing below a third. Whatever the accounting treatment, the market far prefers this type of fundraising to yet another rights issue.

Pearson

THE theory behind building a conglomerate is that the group's earnings are protected from a poor performance in one division by better results in another. After the third successive fall in profits, Pearson has shown this does not always work.

The oil services division has done the damage, with profits falling 98 per cent. A downturn in American drilling activity was compounded by a collapse in gas prices, which wiped out earnings. There is going to be no sudden bounce back in the market, but Pearson should return to a healthier profit after taking action on costs.

The current year should also see stronger profits from other parts of the group, particularly newspapers, which are highly geared towards recovery. Every additional £1 in advertising revenue adds 75p to operating profits.

Shareholders may be concerned that most of the group's businesses are still cyclical, despite £1 billion of acquisitions in the last five years. If the company cannot spread its risk more evenly perhaps investors should do it for themselves.

Sun Alliance

AFTER months of haggling, Codan, Sun Alliance's Danish subsidiary, appears to have won a bargain in its £140 million acquisition of Hafnia's insurance and banking businesses. Provided Codan has not inherited any of the financial risks of Hafnia's parent company, it has only paid about net asset value for Hafnia to become the market leader in life and general insurance in Denmark. Codan can fund the acquisition internally, so a two-point fall in Sun's solvency margin is a small price to pay.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Waiting for Goddard

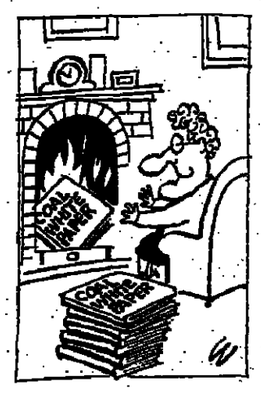
A RACE is on among British companies to recruit regional heads for the booming Asia Pacific region. So says Christopher Sykes, foreign office adviser turned merchant banker, who has been taken on by Goddard Kay Rogers, the executive search consultant, to lead recruitment efforts in Asia excluding Japan. Sykes, latterly with Wardley, the merchant banking arm of Hongkong Bank, is well equipped for the task. He is fluent in Mandarin and Cantonese and has an MA in Chinese from Cambridge. "Companies will be looking to pay about £150,000 for very experienced locals," says Sykes, 38, who is now based in the United Kingdom after spending 15 years in Asia. "And there are not that many of them around." Goddard Kay Rogers is set to open a small office in the crown colony during this summer.

Tongues tied

REGULARS at Eatons, an upmarket Mincing Lane wine bar frequented by Lloyd's brokers, are still trying to fathom a curious incident last week which has pushed it another notch or two up the social scale. Drinkers were stunned when an anonymous individual rushed in and announced he was looking for prominent City types to advertise the spring range of Hermes ties. They were rendered speechless when he ignored the braces-clad regulars in favour of Howie Allan, the bar manager, who is not known for his sartorial elegance, and presented him with one of the £59 ties. "It looks as if stripes are out," says "Chubbs" Haines, proprietor of Eatons, who thinks that Allan's plain shirt stood in his favour. Hermes says it is totally baffled by the affair.

Mealie-mouthed

WELCOME to capitalism. The African National Congress is inviting South African businessmen to sign up for a series of political briefings hosted by Cyril Ramaphosa, the secretary-general — in return for an annual fee of R2,000 plus VAT (£450). Ramaphosa has asked Frankel, Pollak, Vinderine, the Johannesburg broker, to start an executive club with 100-200 members to allow the SA business community to keep abreast of ANC policy, not always an easy task. There were more than 100 applications within 48 hours. The party hopes to raise more than R200,000 (£40,000) a year in return for hosting six or so breakfast, lunch or cocktail sessions. The ANC is thought to be the first political party in the world to decide to market its knowledge and views in this way.



Pryce is right

THE $25 billion battle for RJR Nabisco, which was immortalised in *Barbarians at the Gate*, has been turned into a $7 million American television series. And it has apparently won the thumbs-up from Henry Kravis of Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, the leveraged buyout king who stalked Ross Johnson, RJR Nabisco's high-rolling chief executive officer. Kravis, who is played in the series — in a bizarre twist of casting — by Jonathan Pryce, the British actor better known for his role in *Miss Saigon*, is said to be delighted with his portrayal. One of the more entertaining clips from the series shows a maid merrily ironing $20 bills. Ah, those were the days!

He's our man

AS RICHARD Branson has pointed out *ad nauseam*, it is access to landing and takeover slots at airports that is decisive for any airline wanting to grow its business in the fiercely competitive skies these days. One close observer of the civil aviation business who has come to our attention could hardly be more suitably named for his job. The man in question is the airline analyst at Amstgeld, the Dutch broking firm. His name, wait for it, is one Henk Slotboom.

JON ASHWORTH

BUSINESS LETTERS

Russians need help, not charity

From Mr David Northrop

Sir, The Russians are turning to British businesses to help progress to Western-style democracy, but the attitude of the West and, in particular, the British business community has been at best patronising and at worst cynical.

Boris Yeltsin is only in difficulty because his economic policies are taking a long time to bear fruit. One of the reasons for this has got to be due to the lack of support shown by the Western business communities.

My company has been teaching Russians in Western business methods for the past two years. There has been an overwhelming demand for this type of service, but it is with great sadness that I have to report that the enthusiasm shown by Russian businessmen has been met with real cynicism by the British business community.

My clients have been able to demonstrate the ability to cut British manufacturers' supply costs in half, with equivalent quality criteria.

British business, though, is still too myopic to see the benefits of dealing with Russia.

If Yeltsin fails, it will not be for want of trying. British business must be prepared to assist the Russians when they need it the most — and it is very clear that help is now needed. If we turn our backs, we may see a return to hard-line conservatism, which may itself lead to a crackdown and return to old communist policies.

What the Russians want is not charity, after all the benefits are clear for businessmen — could they but see them. They have a simple choice. Help the Russians now and help themselves as well. Or watch the country slide back into the dark ages.

If businessmen think Russia too unstable to invest in, they would do well to consider the prospect of a new arms race and all that would entail for the security of Western Europe.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID NORTHROP,
(Chairman),
Alpha International Corporation Limited,
45 Crusoe Road,
Surrey.

ITSA developed computer nervous system

From Mr J. Y. Marshall

Sir, Your readers may be interested to know that the computer "nervous system" linking Europe for pensions purposes (*The Times*, March 24) was developed by the Information Technology Services Agency of the United Kingdom Department of Social Security.

Britain has taken technical leadership of this project and is saving the European Community considerable time and expense by adapting computer products developed for domestic use. If, as your item suggests, any EC-wide pension scheme were to be introduced, there will be full compliance with the UK laws on confidentiality and data protection.

Yours faithfully,
J. Y. MARSHALL,
(Director Management Services),
Information Technology Services Agency,
15th Floor,
Euston Tower,
286 Euston Road,
NW1.

Wrong number

From Mr Michael Hepher

Sir, Your reader Mr Patrick Baily (Business Letters, March 23) seems to have the wrong idea about the use of the BT Chargecard.

It is not just an alternative to our highly popular Phonecard, which can be used in the 20,000 Phonecard phones throughout the United Kingdom. The BT Chargecard can be used in all our 110,000 public payphones, and from any of BT's 25 million telephones in homes and offices in the United Kingdom.

When you are abroad, it can be used in more than 120 countries to make calls back to the United Kingdom and, from an increasing number of countries, to anywhere else in the world.

The BT Chargecard costs nothing to obtain and can be used for cashless calling from a variety of phones both at home and abroad with the cost of a call being added to your home or business phone bill.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HEPHER,
(Group Managing Director),
British Telecom,
BT Centre,
81 Newgate Street,
EC1.

Count call benefits as well as costs

From Mr Peter Finch

Sir, The letter from Mr Baily regarding BT Chargecards (March 23) gives an interesting insight to the accountant's view of life; count the button-pushes, evaluate BT's profit, end of story.

As an engineer I am interested in the benefits as well as the costs. Three examples of the Chargecard superiority over the Phonecard in my household are:

1 Each of my three step-children has a Chargecard. I can limit their access to "home only", national or international calls at will, depending on their levels of responsibility and my bank balance. This is not possible with a Phonecard. (I also receive itemised bills showing every call made on their Chargecards, but I have not told the children that!)

2 Armed with a Phonecard I could access 20 per cent of BT's call-boxes; with a Chargecard I can access 100 per cent. I can also make calls from any coin-operated telephone in pubs, clubs, hotels etc, providing only that the telephone is connected to a modern exchange.

3 If I need to make a call from a private house I can save the "Will I embarrass my host if I offer payment or insult him if I don't" dilemma by using the Chargecard.

As I understand it, the call charges for both types of card are identical, so as a shareholder I applaud BT's attempts to derive higher profits by promoting Chargecards. I agree that the dial/recorded message process is a bit of a pain, but, in view of the advantages of the service, I am prepared to put up with that until BT comes up with something better.

Yours faithfully,
P. D. FINCH,
Hurley House,
Cross Oak Road,
Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.

Incipient inflation and the first cuckoo

From Mr J. C. Miller

Sir, The Reverend Steadman (Business Letters, March 25) believes he has seen the first signs of incipient inflation in our recession-ridden economy. I wonder if he has also heard the first cuckoo?

Yours faithfully,
J. C. MILLER,
40 York Avenue,
SW14.

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Quiet start to account

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No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Ramsdens (H)	Leisure	
2	BAT	Tobaccos	
3	Smith WH 'A'	Drapery,Strs	
4	Kode	Electrical	
5	Porter Chadbrn	Industrial	
6	Arjo Wiggins	Paper,Print	
7	BT	Electrical	
8	The Pelican Gp	Leisure	
9	Alexon	Drapery,Strs	
10	Courtaulds	Chems,Plas	
11	Hammerson	Property	
12	Bk of Ireland	Banks,Disc	
13	Tomkins	Industrial	
14	Tate & Lyle	Foods	
15	Cadbury-Schw	Foods	
16	Bodycote	Industrial	
17	Linread	Industrial	
18	Sthrn Water	Water	
19	Blue Circle	Building,Rds	
20	LGW	Industrial	
21	Psion	Electrical	
22	De La Rue	Industrial	
23	RTZ	Mining	
24	BPB Ind	Building,Rds	
25	Vaux Group	Breweries	
26	Argos Plc	Drapery,Strs	
27	Royal	Insurance	
28	Siebe	Industrial	
29	Hill & Smith	Industrial	
30	Burmah Castrl	Oils, Gas	
31	EW Fact	Business Serv	
32	RMC Gp	Building,Rds	
33	Forward Gp	Electrical	
34	Sherwood Gp	Drapery,Strs	
35	MB-Caradon	Industrial	
36	Br Petroleum	Oils, Gas	
37	Forte	Hotels,Cat	
38	Trafford Park	Property	
39	Spring Ram	Industrial	
40	Prudential	Insurance	
	© Times Newspapers Ltd.	Total	

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High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
403	245½	Abbey Ntl	382	+9	11.5	4.0	14.7
239	154	Allied Irish	239	+1	...	4.7	...
197½	106	Aus New Z	168	...	...	5.7	...
380½	190½	Bankamerica	3337½	-56½	...	...	...
239	141	Bk of Ireland	236	+3	...	5.0	37.8
345	320	Bk Leumi UK	325	...	17.0	7.0	...
140	97	Bank Scotland	133	+1½	4.3	4.4	20.9
464	274	Barclays	414	+2	15.1	4.9	...
6	1½	Benchmark	3	...	...	...	...
204	28	Brown Shipley	36	...	...	...	...
21	10	Carlisle	16	...	...	...	...
470	295	Cater Allen	469	...	26.0	7.4	...
115	61	Cattles	111	...	...	5.0	...
2450	912½	Chase Manh	2312½	-37½	...	...	...
2043½	537½	Citicorp	1950	-12½	...	...	...
345	205	Close Bros	343	...	...	3.7	15.3
£12½	867	Commerzbk	£12½	+31½	...	3.2	...
£304½	£214	Deutsche Bk	£290½	...	...	2.2	...
81	11½	First Nat Fin	58	...	...	...	...
1227	493	Fuji Bank Y	1132	...	...	0.4	61.0
430	250	Gerrard Nat	430	...	21.0	6.5	...
654	236	HSBC	604	+1	19.0	4.2	-
634	313	HSBC HK	580	-5	19.0	4.4	-
356	202	Hambros	323	...	13.8	5.7	14.3
363	308	Joseph (L)	358	...	15.8	5.9	...
121	54	King Shaxson	121	...	5.0	5.5	...
395	212	Kleinwort Ben	382	-1	16.0	5.6	-
573	346	Lloyds	523	+14	18.4	4.7	7.5
83	40	Lon Scot Bk	82	...	3.0	4.9	16.3
432	258	Nat Aust Bk	422	-5	...	5.1	13.7
445	251	Nat West	420	+5	...	5.6	30.7
830	418	Provident	818	-2	28.5	4.6	14.2
47	25	Rea Bros	43	-1	0.5	1.6	-
261½	137	Ryl Bk Scot	254	+5	8.8	4.6	...
1975	1043	Schroders	1748	-4	22.0	1.6	-
731	364	Stand Chart	701	-1	...	3.8	...
187½	115	TSB	173½	+4½	6.4	4.9	...
200	38	Union Disc	102	...	...	...	...
646	403	Warburg SG	624	...	18.0	3.8	18.5
217	137	-do- 6% 'A'	211	...	...	3.8	...
7625	3087½	Wells Fargo	7112½	-125	...	1.5	...
183	99	Westpac	143	...	...	5.7	...
253	198	Wintrust	208	-1	9.3	6.0	8.0

BUSINESS SERVICES

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
675	343	ADT	628	...	...	...	-
248	193	Adam & Harvey	218	...	11.0	6.7	2.4
127	53	Air London	83	...	...	5.6	10.2
63	34	African Lakes	50	...	2.0	5.3	9.9
175	81	Auto Sec	148	...	5.3	4.9	-
208	80	BET Ord	95	...	...	9.3	13.6
100	41	BNB Res	70	-1½	4.9	9.3	-
318	208	BPP	278	+½	8.0	3.8	-
295	178	Barbour Index	267	-7	7.2	3.6	19.8
30½	13	Boustead	17	...	0.7	5.5	34.8
236	111	Brit Data Mgt	221	-4	...	2.4	18.4
14	9	Broadcastle	14	...	...	...	...
101	58	Brooks Service	58	...	4.0	...	18.5
142	72	CRT Gp	92	-1	2.4	3.5	10.6
496	362	Capita Group	485	...	6.3	1.7	-
40	19	Casket Plc	39½	+2½	0.5	1.7	15.0
270	25½	Cohesion Capital	52½	...	...	...	...
39	22	Christie	31	...	...	...	...
285	180	Chubb Sec	273	-2	...	1.4	30.2
43	18	Comace	31	...	...	...	...
31	5½	Corp Services	16½	+1½	...	...	...
123	68	Dart	77	...	3.3	5.7	8.7
230	145	Davis Service	229	...	7.9	4.5	-
115	85	EW Fact	102	+5	4.3	5.6	7.6
57	8	Gardiner	16	+½	0.6	5.5	-
48	20	Gardiner (DC)	35	+1	...	...	-
246	163	Hays	236	+2	4.6	2.6	22.1
251	167½	Hogg Robinsn	186	...	6.3	4.5	14.0
143½	43	Holmes Protectn	64	...	...	...	3.8
162	98	Hunch Whamp	148	-1	...	3.2	-
£119	6607½	ISS B DKr	£111	...	...	1.0	15.7
637	375	Inchcape	597	-4	...	3.1	19.9
863	561	Johnson Clean	824	+2½	25.7	4.2	-
18½	2½	Lep	9½	...	...	...	...
244	168	Mitie Gp	212	-3	2.7	1.7	17.5
1197	682	Manpower	1073	...	...	...	...
44½	32½	Michael Page	43½	-½	1.8	5.7	-
279	88	Pennas	274	...	...	1.0	69.4
5½	2	Prime People	3	...	...	...	...
398	68	Proudfoot Alex	115	...	19.5	22.8	2.4
453	355	RCO	405	...	12.8	4.6	13.9
183	117	REA	117	...	4.0	4.6	...
81	43	Reed Executive	56	...	...	...	...
166	117	Reliance Sec	155	...	...	3.9	15.6
238	134	Pentokil	215	+2½	2.3	1.4	...
273	180	Rolfe & Nolan	273	...	6.2	3.0	18.3
399	234	Salvesen (C)	375	-3	7.0	2.5	20.7
43	25	Scott Pickford	34	...	...	3.1	9.4
206	98	Securiguard	173½	-6½	9.4	7.2	9.2
12	1½	Select App	6	...	...	...	...
948	555	Serco Gp	940	...	14.0	2.0	-
352	132	Sherwd Cmps	338	+4	...	2.4	9.1
157	82½	Sketchley	107	-10	3.0	3.7	13.0
360	270	Warner Howrd	340	-5	...	2.4	19.0
61	39	Welpac	39	...	0.6	2.1	...
22½	7	Wills Gp	22½	...	...	0.6	30.8

ELECTRICITY

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
472	273	East Midlands	463	-1	17.1	4.9	8.9
484	266	Eastern Elect	476	+1	16.7	4.7	11.8
346	213	Hydro-Elect	346	+4½	10.1	4.0	12.1
500	288	London Elect	489	+4	16.8	4.6	9.4
547	324	Manweb	534	...	18.2	4.6	7.7
513½	287	Midlands Elec	507½	+7½	17.2	4.5	10.7
545	295	Northern Elec	539	+5	18.5	4.6	8.0
544	298	Norweb	528	-1	17.7	4.5	9.9
326	212	Scottish Power	326	+2	10.1	4.1	12.1
525	293	Seeboard	516	+3	17.2	4.5	9.3
565	313	Sth Wales	547	+5	19.4	4.7	8.7
520	293	Sth Western	510	+2	17.4	4.5	9.2
491	270	Southern Elec	484	+3	16.6	4.6	9.6
545	331	Yorkshire Elec	537	...	17.7	4.4	10.0
343	188	National Powr	338	+2	9.1	3.6	11.2
349	196	PowerGen	333	-5	...	4.2	10.4

FINANCE, LAND

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
67½	28	Aitken Hume	56	...	0.5	...	35.8
73	37½	BWD	73	+1	...	5.8	11.4
126	23	Baldic Plc	65	+1	1.0	3.1	-
453	299	Caledonia	432	...	14.4	4.4	16.6
1950	1050	Camellia	1500	...	27.0	2.4	12.6
290	203	Candover	245	+1½	10.2	5.6	-
91	48	Flextech	75	...	...	...	7.7
242	103	Govett	123	+1	...	6.8	6.9
142	97	Ivory Sime	139	...	...	6.1	14.6
6½	3½	LIT	6½	...	...	...	...
165	7½	Lightship	12	...	0.6	...	...
185	110	Lon Forfaitng	180	...	...	6.4	12.7
62	10	Manakin	55	...	...	...	...
10½	1½	Nat Home Loan	9½	...	...	...	...
47	24	Newmarket	44	...	...	...	...
260	179	Rathbone Bs	255	-½	6.0	3.1	-
22	9½	Rutland Tst	21	+½	0.8	5.1	-
330	120	S & U	294	...	...	3.7	10.6
67	34	Singer & Fried	64	...	2.6	5.6	-
938	575	Sothebys	900	...	...	4.6	...
99	73	SIP Capital	92	...	3.0	4.3	16.6

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
1950	1043½	Amer Express	1862½	-21½	...	...	...
234	149	Electra	213	-1	6.7	4.2	29.0
978	535	Henderson Ad	920	-3	41.0	5.9	20.3
120	50	Invesco MIM	109	...	...	3.7	16.0
223	121	Jardine Strat	180	...	...	4.4	8.1
194	107½	MAI	177	-1	6.0	4.5	12.9
469	244	MAM	462	...	11.5	3.5	17.7
795	460	M & G	762	...	20.0	3.5	20.3
183	81	Smith New Crt	182	...	4.5	3.3	7.2
98	57	Sterling Tst	97	...	...	...	8.5
78	35	Trio Hldgs	68	...	...	5.9	...

MINING

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
4112½	1800	Am Gold	2850	-46½	...	7.5	13.4
2237½	1000	Ang Am Coal	1212½	+12½	...	8.4	5.2
2275	1012½	Ang Am	1512½	...	...	5.1	9.4
18½	7	Anglo Pac Res	17	...	...	...	...
110	33	Blyvoors	72½	-1½	...	9.4	3.6
25½	11	Bracken	25½	...	...	...	1.4
566	208	Buffels	411	+1	...	10.5	9.0
4½	1	Butte	1½	...	...	...	...
684	437	CRA	652	-9	...	3.4	-
18	9	Cluff Res	11½	...	...	...	...
1062½	581½	De Beers	1062½	...	...	5.0	-
125	37½	Deelkraal	56	+1	...	11.9	2.8
46	7	Doornfontein	17½	...	...	...	...
759	388	Driefontein	587	-13	...	6.5	9.4
375	120	Durban	218	-2	...	...	...
121	39	E Rand Gold	76	+1	...	13.1	2.2
154	62	E Daggs	97	...	...	...	7.3
178	54	E Rand Prop	176	...	...	...	...
470	117	Elandsrand	210	-1	...	6.5	4.4
555	272	FS Cons	529	-1	...	10.1	5.4
35	7	FS Dev	12	...	...	...	...
1491	686	GFSA	1075	-5	...	4.2	15.3
222	121	Gencor	147	-2	...	6.7	11.4
45	29½	GM Kalgoorlie	45	...	...	3.3	10.3
16½	2	Greenwich R 'A'	12½	-½	...	...	...
89	44	Grootvlei	83	...	...	13.9	-
366	78	Harmony	198	-5	...	...	...
281½	87	Hartles	158	-2	...	...	3.5
14	5	Inoco	10½	...	...	...	...
820	486	Impala Plat	687	...	...	...	14.0
8	2½	Kenmare Res	7½	...	...	...	...
795	292	Kinross	579	-6	...	9.6	5.7
684	293	Kloof	499	-11	...	4.0	7.6
60	21½	Leslie	32	-1	...	8.8	4.7
71	12	Loraine	34	...	...	...	...
128	90½	MIM	108½	-1	...	2.3	46.1
955	559	Minorco	919	-3	...	4.1	10.9
120	66	Nth Bkn Hill	116	-2	...	4.6	-
1212½	598	Orange Free	1162½	-37½	...	12.0	9.3
704	489	RTZ	673	+3	19.5	3.9	20.4
1287½	325	Rand Mines	500	...	...	13.0	2.1
230	75	Rand Min Prp	115	...	...	16.2	5.0
334	136	Randfontein	260	-2	...	7.3	3.5
221	106	Renison	158	-5	...	3.1	14.3
1312½	812½	Rustnbrg	912½	...	...	5.5	12.9
410	183	St Helena	344	-6	...	7.7	-
1287½	475	Southvaal	937½	-34½	...	6.8	14.5
60	17½	Stilfontein	30½	...	...	14.4	-
183	43	Unisel	104	-1	...	3.2	9.3
4000	1500	Vaal Reefs	2875	-75	...	8.5	4.5
324	134	Welkom	311	+1	...	11.6	8.7
99½	26	Western Areas	57	-1	...	...	...
2375	587½	Western Deep	1200	-25	...	5.8	4.9
347	164	Wstrn Mining	239	-1	...	...	...
630	295	Winkels	571	+1	...	1.9	4.3
84	18	Zambia Copper	72	...	...	...	...
45	18	Zandpan	27	...	...	...	7.7

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
400	228	Abbey Panels	238	...	...	...	...
125	90	Airflow Stream	125	...	0.1	0.1	18.8
123	56	Appleyard	113	-½	5.2	6.1	-
263	130	Bleachley Mtr	262	...	8.2	7.3	14.7
145	115	Bostrom	145	...	6.0	5.5	39.4
379	100	Br Aerospace	285	-2	7.0	3.5	...
378	303	Caltyns	308	-5	11.5	5.1	40.4
9½	3	Coverdale	6½	...	...	...	...
139	95	Central Mtrs	130	+1	...	4.1	33.1
48	15½	Cook (DC)	20	...	...	...	...
226	99	Cowie (T)	205	...	6.2	4.1	15.6
133	75	Dag Motors	106	...	5.7	7.2	12.5
340	85	Davnprt Vern	140	...	4.0	3.8	17.3
264	130	ERF	204	...	4.0	...	...
137	68	European Mtr	95	...	...	2.1	...
316	167	Evans Halshaw	283	-½	11.2	5.3	-
290	163	FR Group	272	...	6.6	3.3	13.0
3581½	1500	Ford Motor	3512½	-12½	...	...	...
2875	1681½	General Mtr	2556½	-43½	...	2.0	...
53	35	Cowlings	45	...	2.0	5.9	...
123	43	Henlys	110	-2	3.0	3.6	...
838	465	Honda Motor	838	+24	...	0.7	...
31	10	Jacks (Wm)	26	...	...	...	...
95	49	Jessups	80	...	4.5	7.5	...
225	98	Kwik-Fit	115	...	3.3	3.9	-
335	175	Lex Service	324	-1½	10.6	4.4	-
128	74	Lookers	106	...	6.2	7.8	...
193	77	Lucas	139	+2	7.0	6.8	...
274½	163	Pendragon	260	-5	...	3.4	-
171	103	Perry Gp	157	-1	6.0	5.2	-
157	56	Quicks Group	149	+½	4.5	4.0	-
176	89	Rolls-Royce	121½	-2½	5.0	5.5	...
160	99	Vardy (Reg)	132	+1½	4.0	4.0	20.4
170	90	Westland	158	...	4.2	3.6	14.0

PAPER, PRINT, ADVTG

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
303	109	API	285	...	7.5	3.5	34.8
230	127½	Arjo Wiggins	176	+2	...	4.9	17.4
493	365	Abbott Mead	490	+3½	9.5	2.5	-
3	½	Acsis Group	1½	...	...	...	...
128	13	Argis Gp	17	...	5.8	...	5.7
212	105	Asgen Comms	195	...	...	3.4	-
13	7	BBB Design	10	...	...	...	...
344	180	Bemrose	344	+1	...	4.9	-
60	16	Birkdale	20	...	0.2	1.3	16.9
138	80	Bunzl	136	+1	4.0	3.9	-
287	147	CIA Gp	270	+1	...	2.1	-
230	55	Capital Inds	227	-7½	4.0	2.4	-
51	36	City of Lona	46	...	...	9.8	9.6
214	135	Cropper (James)	202	...	3.0	2.0	23.0
41	6	Crown Comm	6	...	...	...	...
73	30	Delyn Pckaging	63	...	1.4	3.1	12.5
149	78	Dolphin Pack	106	...	4.5	5.7	14.1
74½	42	Dudley Jenkins	51	...	...	...	13.1
15	9½	Elswick	14	...	0.2	...	11.8
68	38	Edrway Group	57	...	...	7.4	16.8
296	211	Ferguson Intl	294	...	12.5	5.7	17.0
140	65	Ferry Pick	105	...	7.5	9.5	-
106	25	Fitch	91	...	...	0.6	22.7
48	6	Fitch	15½	+½	...	...	1.7
71	47	Gibbon Lyons	70	...	...	9.5	13.7
295	185½	Gold Greenless	282	...	...	3.9	22.4
53	20	Goodhead	26	...	0.5	2.6	...
180	32½	Hunterprint	72	...	...	...	...
180	136	Intereurope	136	...	7.4	7.3	9.0
220	123	Jarvis Porter	220	+1	4.4	2.7	24.8
37	9½	Lopex	21	-1	...	...	10.6
271	133	More O'Ferrall	263	+2	13.2	6.7	-
78	27	NMC Group	68	...	1.2	...	13.4
101	58	Osborne & Little	101	...	4.3	5.7	12.9
189	132	Quarto	183	+2	5.2	3.0	9.6
346	231	St Ives Gp	346	+1	5.2	2.0	23.6
245	115	Saatchi	185	...	...	...	...
754	360	Seppi	378	...	...	10.4	7.1
19½	1½	Sedla	15½	...	...	...	...
43	3	Shandwick	23½	...	...	...	...
351	233	Smith David	327	-2	9.5	3.9	14.5
335	210	Smurfit (Jeff)	264	-1	...	0.6	9.1
263	171	Stat-Plus	240	...	8.0	4.5	-
23	10½	Taylor Nelson	22½	-½	...	0.9	47.4
65	37	VTR	50	...	...	9.1	14.2
98	20½	WPP	55	+1	...	2.4	...
195	48	Wace	94	+6	8.2	11.7	10.4
221	158	Waddington (J)	215	...	7.9	4.9	16.2
651	391	Watmough	643	+1	11.5	2.4	-
6½	1½	Westport	5½	+½	...	...	20.6
39	12	Whitney Macks	19	...	...	...	...
75	51	Wood (SW)	65	+1	0.2	0.5	...

SHOES, LEATHER

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
28	9	Automagica	12	...	...	...	...
108	42	Headlam	108	+4	2.4	3.0	42.8
500	265	Lambert	420	-6½	13.0	4.1	-
111	63	Pittard Garnar	85	-½	2.0	3.1	-
41	18	Strong & Fisher	22	...	1.0	6.3	5.8
193	88	Stylo	126	...	2.5	2.6	...

TEXTILES

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
488	362	Allied Text	483	...	12.6	3.5	15.5
73	47	Beckman (A)	61	...	4.7	10.4	12.1
52	21	Bolton Gp	25½	+2½	...	...	13.0
165	138	Br Mohair	154½	-1½	8.5	7.3	-
152	30	Celestion	152	...	1.4	1.2	-
41	15	Chartwell	20	...	0.4	2.7	...
345	186½	Claremont Gs	330	-1	7.2	2.9	-
601	364	Courtauld Text	579	...	13.6	3.1	15.8
248½	160	Dawson	232	...	9.0	5.2	22.6
59	17	Drummond	23	+1	1.5	...	7.7
60	17½	Dunkeld	31	...	...	...	...
73	60	Faupel	72	...	...	9.1	7.1
68	15	Foster (John)	19	+1	0.5	3.5	...
142	84	Gaskell	85	...	8.5	...	...
186	99	Hicking Pntcst	165	-1	3.4	2.7	14.0
73	38	Jerome (S)	50	...	1.0	...	...
389	315	Lamont	319	...	...	5.0	15.6
425	205½	Leeds	419	...	...	2.3	20.2
42	15	Lister	35	...	0.1	0.4	...
122	81	Lyles (S)	108	...	4.9	6.0	12.3
100	53	Parkland 'A'	97	...	2.0	2.7	...
95½	63	Readicut	92½	...	3.4	5.0	18.4
71	30	SEET	42	...	...	...	...
94	67	Sirdar	86	+½	5.1	8.0	15.1
57	29	Stirling Gp	56	...	1.6	3.9	21.3
60	31	Stoddard	44	...	2.6	8.0	11.7
312	198	Tomkinsons	306	...	11.5	5.0	26.4
62½	30	West Trust	47	...	...	...	...
356	160	Yorklyde	350	...	9.7	3.7	16.4

NEWS, PUBLISHERS

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
144	73	Adscene	134	...	4.0	4.0	14.3
390	315	Black (A&C)	325	...	13.0	5.3	19.4
608	348	Blenheim Gp	580	-3	...	2.1	-
330	208	Bristol	303	-2	11.5	5.1	22.5
8525	5900	Daily Mail	8525	+25	130	2.0	19.2
8500	5800	Daily Mail 'A'	8495	...	130	2.0	19.1
305	193	Dorling Kind	268	-1	...	1.5	29.5
365	229½	EMAP	342	...	...	2.9	22.3
983	533	Euromoney Pb	938	...	20.5	4.2	21.1
231	125	Harrington K	232	...	4.5	2.6	-
358	155	Haynes Pub	306	+1	6.0	2.6	13.2
263	140	Headline	263	+8	4.5	2.3	-
180	105	Home Counts	140	...	8.2	7.8	26.4
6½	3	Intl Bus Comms	4½	...	...	...	...
14½	6½	Int Cm & Data	7½	...	...	...	...
430	285	Independent	430	...	...	4.5	15.5
570	399	Johnstone Press	526	...	6.2	1.6	-
288	186	Metal Bulletin	284	...	8.0	3.8	20.1
125	49	Mirror Gp	104	...	...	...	9.9
373	122½	News Corp	348	-6	...	0.3	21.9
209	64½	News Intl	201	-3	...	0.6	13.9
459½	207	Pearson	404	+27	...	4.0	18.7
655	340	Portsmth Sund	650	...	8.6	1.8	16.7
682	447	Reed Intl	648	-1	...	3.5	-
146	61	Southnews	140	...	...	1.4	43.0
130	39	Sterling Pubs	118	...	...	2.8	38.9
366	274	Telegraph	329	-½	11.0	4.5	-
825	565	Thomson Corp	815	-10	23.4	4.2	-
347	232	Trinity Intl	336	+1	8.7	3.5	-
62	29	Unit Group	56	...	...	...	...
595	327	Utd Nwspaprs	565	+6	...	5.1	14.1

TOBACCOS

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
1013	608	BAT	977	+4	...	5.1	21.1
670	480	Rothmans 'B'	635	+9	10.2	2.2	14.5

TRANSPORT

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
440	211	Assoc Br Ports	379	-7	8.5	3.0	...
816	531	BAA	798	+3	14.5	2.4	14.1
315	219	Br Airways	280	-2	10.1	4.8	7.5
182	45	Clarkson (H)	72	...	1.5	2.8	...
101	11	Davies Newman	23	...	...	...	...
515	293	Eurotunnel Uts	492	+2	...	...	...
88	44	Fisher (James)	49	-½	1.0	2.7	-
140	70	Graig	130	...	4.5	4.4	...
203	142	IoM Steam	153	...	...	8.5	-
39	22	Jacobs (JI)	27	+½	1.9	9.4	16.1
69	41	Lon O'Seas Frt	67	...	1.2	2.3	4.1
2225	1237½	Manchstr Sh	2225	...	4.5	0.3	12.1
349	193	Mersey Docks	348	+2	7.5	2.9	-
210	168	Natl Express	192	...	...	4.9	-
290	216	NFC	256	...	6.5	3.4	19.3
357	170	Ocean Group	280	-3	14.3	6.8	12.7
63	31	Ocean Wilson	48	...	...	7.4	10.7
657	296½	P & O Dfd	562	-4	...	7.2	18.1
156	97	P & O 5 1/2%	131	+3	...	5.5	...
590	267	Powell Duffryn	523	...	22.6	5.8	20.9
138	96	Seacon	130	...	...	5.2	8.2
59	27½	TIP Europe	27½	...	1.4	6.8	6.7
67	24	TNT	38½	-2	...	...	...
765	495½	Tibbet & Britten	748	...	...	1.9	29.9
478	214	Tiphook	368	...	17.5	6.3	7.3
307	208	TDG	259	...	8.5	4.0	-

OILS, GAS

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
18½	6	Aberdeen Pet	17½	-½	...	...	...
29½	11½	Aran Energy	24	...	...	...	...
68	21	Arcon Intl	47	...	...	...	...
53	27	Aus Oil & Gas	48½	...	...	...	...
290	20	Aviva Pet	42	-2	...	...	...
48	5	Beverley	10	...	...	0.6	...
195	105	Br Borneo	165	+½	7.1	5.7	...
336	223	British Gas	303	+3	...	6.4	13.1
309	182	Br Petroleum	308½	+4	10.5	4.5	48.6
4½	1	Bula Resources	1½	...	...	...	...
741	460	Burmah Castrl	721	+7	34.0	4.4	16.5
75	21	Cairn Energy	47	+2	...	...	...
268	164	Calor Gp	263	-2	12.8	6.1	17.3
79	19½	Clyde Pet	46	...	...	...	...
35	13	Coplex Res	30	...	...	...	...
18½	10½	Edin Oil & Gas	12½	...	...	...	...
510	292	Enterprise	505	+9½	...	4.2	38.7
103	25	Exp Co Louis	71	-2	...	...	...
28½	14½	Fairhaven Intl	24	...	...	...	...
69	34	Goal Pet	58	+½	1.4	3.2	-
31	5	Gt Western Res	26	...	...	...	...
152	71	Hardy O & G	135	...	1.0	1.0	62.4
36	14½	Kelt Energy	28	...	...	...	...
283	112	LASMO	164	-2	3.3	2.7	-
161	63	-do- Units	80	-9½	9.4	15.8	...
51	11	Mid Scot Res	37½	...	...	...	...
48	27	Monument	33	...	...	...	...
18½	5	New London	6½	...	...	...	...
39½	17	Nth Sea Assets	31½	+2	1.0	4.3	...
37	25	Oil Search	32	...	...	...	...
14½	8	Petroz	14	...	...	...	...
110	57	Pict Pet	102	...	...	...	14.2
31	10	Premier	29	...	...	...	...
198	40	Presidio	75	...	...	...	...
470	300	Ranger	303	-2	...	...	...
6000	4162½	Royal Dtch Fl	5912½	+87½	...	5.3	...
4712½	3025	Schlumberger	3900	...	...	2.1	...
64	41	Seafield	64	+2	...	...	...

WATER

High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
536	308½	Anglian Water	528	-3	19.3	4.9	9.6
647	336	Northumbrian	639	-1	20.5	4.3	8.6
524	323	North West	513	...	19.6	5.1	9.0
520	298	Severn Trent	508	+1½	19.7	5.1	7.4
537	308	Sthrn Water	530	+3	19.5	4.9	9.4
1325	670	Sth Staffs	1325	+35	40.2	4.0	8.6
560	306	South West	548	+1	21.7	5.3	8.3
547	324	Thames Water	543	-1	19.2	4.7	10.3
599	337	Welsh Water	596	...	21.4	4.8	6.9
643	350½	Wessex Water	635	-3	...	4.1	8.6
579	336	Yorkshire W	572	...	19.5	4.5	9.3

Source: Finstat

▲ USM; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ↑ Ex rights issue; ‡ Ex all; ‡ Ex capital distribution; - Figures or report awaited; ... No significant data.

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Alexander McCall-Smith on the rights of the unborn child after a Scottish appellate ruling


CHANNEL 4

Can this child sue? It may be that the law recognises the personhood of foetuses — but only when it is expedient to do so

When is a foetus a person and when is it not?

Three Scottish appeal judges held last week that the parents of a baby who died from injuries sustained in the womb can sue a health authority for damages. The case once again focuses attention on the difficult and emotional issue of whether the foetus is a person, and what legal claims can be made over it.

The baby in the case died allegedly as a result of medical negligence three days after he was born, and his parents later claimed damages against the local health board. Such claims are possible under Scots law, which allows parents to claim loss of society damages in respect of a child's wrongful death. (In England, bereavement damages are a somewhat more limited option.)

The problem in this case is that the injury sustained by the baby occurred prior to his birth, and this raised the issue of whether he had to be a "person" at the time of the injury to qualify under the relevant legislation.

There had been conflicting rulings, with Scottish judges taking differing views. When the parents' claim first came before the Court of Session, Lord Prosser, the judge, dismissed it, arguing that at the time the baby was injured it was not a "person" in law. A living person needed to suffer the fatal injury, he said, for the claim to succeed. However, in a later conflicting ruling Lord Morton of Shuna awarded £17,000 to another couple whose baby died from brain damage when five weeks old, from injuries sustained before birth.

Last week the Court of Appeal judges overturned Lord Prosser's ruling and the conflict in judicial approach was settled in favour of a parental right of action. The decision is based partly on considerations of policy and partly on statutory interpretation.

The policy element is apparent in the remarks of Lord Caplan, who said that he could not see any reason why Parliament should have sought to allow damages to a parent who loses a child fatally injured shortly after birth, while at the same time to deny it to a parent whose child is fatally injured before (but who at least is born alive). The loss in each case is the same.

Lord Caplan said: "A parent who loses a young infant will experience the same sense of loss irrespective of whether the injuries causing death originated shortly before birth or shortly after birth."

Particularly challenging, though, were the remarks of another of the judges in the case, Lord McCluskey, who referred to the ordinary habit of referring to a child in the womb as he or she, him or her. This, in its broader context, is complex, and highly controversial ground. It is undoubtedly the case that foetuses are given this sort of personality in everyday language, but how far should our tendency to think of foetuses as persons prompt us to recognise in them actual legal personhood, something which had broad ramifications? If a foetus is to be treated as a person, then why should parents not get damages for the grief involved in the loss of an unborn child?

There seems to be little justification for giving damages for the loss of a child who survives for a few minutes and denying damages where the baby dies several minutes before birth. Pragmatic considerations, of course, are important here. The occasions for awarding damages must be kept in check, and even if birth is an arbitrary watershed, it is a watershed nonetheless.

In the civil law context, these Scottish decisions, along with provisions in England which give a child the right to sue in respect of ante-natal injuries, would appear to extend considerable legal personality to the foetus. In May last year, a boy, Paul McLaughlin, aged six, from Londonderry, was awarded £700,000 for injuries suffered before he was born when his pregnant mother crashed her car.

The issue also gives rise to problems for homicide law

Many legal systems have similar provisions which give succession rights to the foetus. And yet, when it comes to abortion, the situation is quiet different, and indeed there are several judicial pronouncements to the effect that a foetus, for abortion purposes, is definitely not a person. The issue of foetal personhood also gives rise to problems for the law of homicide. It is not homicide to kill a foetus in the womb, although in a number of jurisdictions in the United States the homicide statutes have been amended to make it murder deliberately to kill a foetus.

The problem has a slightly different aspect when a child *who is born alive* dies as a result of criminal violence applied to it while it was still in the womb.

There has been no homicide conviction in such circumstances in the UK, although in principle it is difficult to see why in such a case there should not be a conviction for murder or manslaughter (culpable homicide in Scotland).

Certainly, a Scottish court ruled in 1989 that a driver's reckless driving resulted in the death of a "person" when he caused a woman driver to give birth prematurely to a child who then died from the antenatal injuries. This decision, though, involved an offence under the Road Traffic Act and did not involve a culpable homicide charge.

If it could be homicide to apply violence to a pregnant woman, whose baby then dies after birth, why should it not be homicide if the baby dies *in utero*? There would appear to be no substantial grounds for making any distinction here, and this, inevitably, would provide powerful ammunition for the opponents of abortion. They might point out that what this all shows is that the law recognises the personhood of foetuses — but only when it is expedient to do so.

● *The author is reader in Law, University of Edinburgh.*

Justice delayed may mean justice denied

The practice and procedure of employment law needs urgent attention

Mr Justice Phillips, the first president of the Employment Appeal Tribunal, said in 1977 that he had "not encountered any particular ambiguity or obscurity in the Equal Pay Act". Those words would not be echoed by his successors.

The reality of employment equality law today is indicated by last month's judgment of the Employment Appeal Tribunal (EAT) in *British Coal Corporation v Smith*. Claims for equal pay for work of equal value had been commenced on January 1 1986. Seven years later, the EAT gave judgment on some difficult legal issues.

The EAT estimated that the cases were unlikely to be completed for another five years or more. The lay members of the EAT, with whom Mr Justice Wood agreed, stated that the complexity and the delays in this area of the law were "working against the present and future best interests of the individuals concerned and of industrial relations generally".


COUNSEL

DAVID PANNICK QC

European Community law confers the right to equal pay for men and women doing work of equal value for the same employer. In 1982, the European Commission successfully brought proceedings against the United Kingdom in the European Court of Justice requiring an amendment to our Equal Pay Act to protect this right. When the government introduced amending regulations in 1984, the House of Lords passed an Opposition resolution recording that those regulations did not adequately reflect the European Court judgment.

As was pointed out, the substance of the equal pay amendments is so unclear, the procedure so convoluted, that a woman complainant with a good case is highly unlikely to see any benefit from her legal proceedings unless she (or more realistically her trade union or the Equal Opportunities Commission) is prepared to invest many years of legal fees and effort into the process. Nor can employers easily achieve clear and comprehensible statements of their legal liabilities.

Article six of the European Convention on Human Rights provides that the determination of civil rights or obligations, or of a criminal charge, shall be by a hearing within a reasonable time. Last May, the European Commission of Human Rights held that Dr Royce Darnell had established a breach by the UK of his right under article six because of the length of time taken by the courts and tribunals to consider his complaints about his dismissal from employment by the Trent Regional Health Authority.

In a concurring opinion, Sir Basil Hall (the English member of the Commission) commented that for industrial tribunal proceedings to take over a year, and for there to be a further two years delay before a hearing in the EAT was "too long". Especially where reinstatement is in issue, Sir Basil concluded that "there is particular need that a final determination should be made expeditiously".

A partial solution to delays in the equal value procedure would be to abolish the requirement for an independent expert to consider the issues before the industrial tribunal reaches its conclusion. But, assuming that the government will not provide further resources, more radical surgery is also required, involving consideration of the general role of the EAT.

The two-year delay in the hearing of appeals by the EAT from industrial tribunals is caused by too many cases, and too few judges. The delay is unacceptable. Thereafter, cases may go to the Court of Appeal, with leave, on a point of law. There is a strong case for making the EAT an alternative to the industrial tribunal in important cases, rather than a further stage in the appellate process. The EAT has original jurisidiction in some contexts, such as appeals from decisions of the certification officer.

In Northern Ireland, cases go directly from the industrial tribunal to the Court of Appeal. There are mechanisms for transferring cases as between county courts and the High Court to ensure that difficult or important points are considered at a higher level.

A solution may be to permit industrial tribunals to order that a complex or important case (whether or not in the equal value field) should be heard in the EAT by a panel chaired by a High Court judge. This would reduce waiting times in the industrial tribunals. Conferring this original jurisdiction on the EAT would only work if its general appellate function were to be limited, otherwise the delays in hearings by the EAT would grow even longer.

If Parliament does not act soon to reduce delays, the European Court of Justice (applying Community law) and the European Commission and Court of Human Rights (applying article six of the convention) are likely to intervene.

● *The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford*

The real costs of going to law

Readers air their views on the charges levied by solicitors

From Mr David Vince
Sir, Patrick Stevens's article on how a solicitor determines his or her costs was, by omission, misleading. No mention was made of scale fees, which are not only charged — in addition to the costs, plus mark-up, as outlined in the article — but are in fact recommended by the Law Society. The actual time worked by a solicitor can, where large amounts are concerned, be an irrelevance. I do not think the author of the article would pretend that 20 hours' work on a £3 million lease, or the administration of a £3 million estate, will result in the same bill as would be sent out for same work on a £3,000 lease or estate.
Yours faithfully,
DAVID VINCE,
Cottage 82,
Lock 76, Watford
Hertfordshire.

From Mr Stanley Williamson
Sir, Patrick Stevens does not give a breakdown of costs and fees as stated, His article is full of generalisations.

Perhaps he would like to itemise costs (hourly) something like this: indemnity insurance, building, equipment, bank charges, local rates, secretary, mark-up.
Yours faithfully,
STANLEY WILLIAMSON,
21 Lichey Coppice,
Rednal,
Birmingham.

From Mr Edward Beaumont
Sir, It is clear that the legal profession has not really progressed beyond deciding what the fee should be and then "justifying" it. It is simply not the case that overheads double if the volume of work doubles. That idea assumes *that everyone in the office is always* working at full stretch, and comes about from an obsession with the hourly rate, which is at the root of the legal profession's problems in communication today. In my own case it has been one of many reasons for discontinuing legal practice as a solicitor.
Yours faithfully,
EDWARD BEAUMONT,
Dolphin House,
43 Crofton Lane,
Hill Head,
Fareham, Hampshire.

● *Readers have asked whether the hourly charges cited in the table on the cost of going to law (Chambers & Partners Directory) on March 16 were the charge to the client, including any mark-up: they were.*

Justice for Kane?

INNS AND OUTS

BBC's *Rough Justice* returns this Thursday with a programme investigating an alleged miscarriage of justice in Northern Ireland. The documentary seeks to show that Patrick Kane was wrongfully convicted of murdering two soldiers at the funeral of an IRA member in March 1988.

The programme uses evidence from Dr Andrew Coleman, a psychologist at Leicester university, who says that Kane, who was part of the mob, did not have the necessary intent for murder but became caught up in the actions of the crowd.

The programme also suggests that Kane's trial would have been fairer if the verdict had been delivered by a jury rather than judges, under the Diplock system.

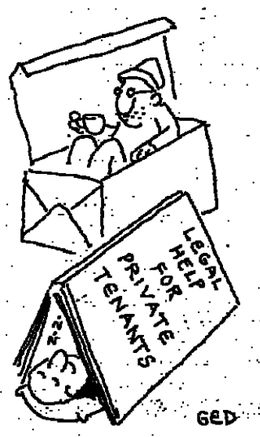
Face update

A CHILD abducted at the age of three may be unrecognisable five years later. Now, thanks to a gift to the Missing Persons Bureau by Wang (UK) Limited, this could change. Wang has given the bureau, whose helpline receives more than 500 calls a week, Britain's first "aging machine" which "age progresses", photographs to construct an image of how a child might look at the age of ten from an earlier photograph.

Tenant aid

TENANTS who are the victims of harassment or illegal eviction will be able to find specialist legal help with a new directory, Legal Help for Private Tenants, published by the Law Society and the Campaign for Bedsit Rights (CBR).

There is widespread unmet legal need in housing: it is estimated that only 6 to 8 per cent of defendants in housing cases are legally represented. At the same time, there is thought to be extensive harassment of private tenants in some areas with possibly 9 per cent of private tenants experiencing attempts to make them leave their homes.



GED

The directory — to be sent to advice centres and tenants groups — advises on eviction, legal remedies and paying for legal costs. It costs £10 for the whole of England and Wales or £3.50 for a single region.

● *From the CBR, 7 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1DU.*

Green issue

VICE-president Al Gore's authorship of *Earth in the Balance* has left the United States business community in a state of anxiety over the introduction of new green laws.

So far, the Clinton administration has confirmed that it wants to discourage confrontations between environmentalists and industry, such as the wrangle between the lumber industry and protectors of the endangered northern spotted owl, a dispute which has paralysed timber sales approved by Congress in 1992.

The Environmental Protection Agency has also announced measures to focus regulation on, for example, the most hazardous chemical waste sites rather than marginal ones.

On the other hand President Clinton has abolished the Council on Competitiveness which was set up under Mr Bush to challenge over-burdensome green regulations.

Child group

WHETHER it is juvenile crime, rape in the classroom or "divorcing" parents, children and the law is a fast-growing area. The first seminar of the Association of Lawyers for Children last week was timely. It is the only group that encompasses not only lawyers, but also academics, clerks, legal executives, legal advisors and judges.

Other professionals who work with children may also be associate members. Lord Justice Butler-Sloss addressed the seminar and emphasised that listening to children had to be balanced against the risk of giving them too much power.

● *Further information: Barbara Mitchels of 42 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich.*

Medical advice

BEVAN Ashford, a Bristol law firm, has won the job of advising on the Guy's and St Thomas' hospital mergers. The firm has been appointed by South East Thames Regional Health Authority.

Capsticks, also well-known in the health services field, has won accreditation from the Open University for a course it runs for health service managers, leading to a recognised qualification. The idea is to equip managers to do everything possible to reduce medical accidents and the cost of litigation.

It's not us

BARBARA Mills, QC, is seeking to reassure the police that her office at the Crown Prosecution Service is not responsible for the trend in courts for names of informants to be disclosed to defence lawyers. According to a recent issue of *Police*, she believes the effects of such disclosures could damage the improved relationship between the CPS and the police service and is anxious to put the record straight.

Cutting down

ARE THE days numbered for the tradition that trainee barristers must "eat dinners" in their Inn of Court? The Bar Council has decided that trainee barristers will only have to eat 18 instead of 24 dinners before being allowed to qualify.

Left hanging

IF YOU had a complaint to make against a solicitor on Thursday or Friday last week you would have been left hanging. The Solicitors Complaints Bureau, during its move to Leamington Spa, neglected to put an answer machine on informing callers of its move or its new number.

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Further particulars may be obtained from Liz Gredley, Personnel and Administration Manager, British Steel Pension Fund, 3rd Floor, Radstock House, 5 Eccleston Street, London, SW1W 9LX. Telephone number: 071-730-5256, to whom written applications should be made.

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Old restriction order still valid

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Didlick

Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Rougier

[Judgment March 29]

The operation of a restriction order imposed by the crown court in 1968 on a person under the Mental Health Act 1959, which was subject to conditions and without limit of time, could not be brought to an end unless the Home Secretary made a positive direction to that effect or he discharged the patient absolutely.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment dismissing the application of Roy Edward Didlick for an order of *certiorari* to quash the decision of the Home Secretary on December 19, 1991, to issue a warrant recalling the applicant to hospital, pursuant to section 42(3) of the Mental Health Act 1983, which essentially re-enacted the relevant provisions of the 1959 Act, under a restriction order originally made on April 17, 1968.

Mr Andrew McFarlane for the applicant; Mr Stephen Richards for the Home Secretary.

MR JUSTICE ROUGIER said that after the applicant was convicted of indecent assault on a woman by the Shropshire Quarter Sessions on April 17, 1968, the court, acting on medical evidence, made a restriction order without limit of time, under section 65 of the Mental Health Act 1959, now effectively replaced by section 41 of the 1983 Act.

The applicant was conditionally discharged by warrant of the Home Office from the hospital where he had been detained, under section 66(2) of the 1959 Act, now section 42(2) of the 1983 Act, in September 1973.

By a letter to the applicant in January 1979, the Home Office informed him that following recommendations by the medical authorities the conditions attaching to his discharge were allowed to lapse but that his liability to recall to hospital remained.

The applicant was convicted at Hereford Crown Court on November 20, 1989, on charges including assault occasioning actual bodily harm and indecent assault and sentenced to four years imprisonment in total.

Throughout the years since his discharge, the applicant had been controlling his illness by appropriate medication but in 1990, while in prison, he began to refuse treatment. His mental condition deteriorated and the Home Secretary, acting on medical advice, directed his transfer from prison and admission to the secure unit of the Reaside Clinic, Birmingham.

His Lordship observed that since the passing of the 1983 Act the decision as to the discharge of a person subject to a restriction order was for the appropriate mental health tribunal.

The applicant's date of release was scheduled for December 1991, and the relevant tribunal considering his case were of the opinion that he was still in need of treatment. In those circumstances the Home Secretary issued the warrant of recall under the original restriction order of 1968.

The applicant's continued treatment was successful to such an extent that the clinic recommended his discharge and the tribunal directed his conditional discharge in July 1992.

Mr McFarlane contended that after the applicant's original conditional discharge, in September 1973, since the conditions had been allowed to lapse, he was in effect absolutely discharged so that the original restriction order was no longer in force.

In essence, he submitted that section 42 of the 1983 Act permitted either an absolute discharge or discharge subject to conditions. There was no intermediate type of discharge where, although there were no conditions, the patient remained subject to recall.

Mr Richards pointed out that the Home Secretary's power to issue a warrant of recall under section 42(3) of the 1983 Act could be exercised at any time while the original restriction order remained in force. There was no room for the situation where a restriction order lapsed by implication; subsections (1) and (2) expressly provided for the means by which it could be brought to an end.

His Lordship said that Mr Richard's argument was correct: subsections (1) and (2) indicated clearly that before a restriction order could be brought to an end the Home Secretary had either to make a direction to that effect or had to discharge the patient absolutely.

Each of those was a positive act, and it followed that by merely allowing the conditions under which the applicant was discharged to lapse, the Home Secretary did not thereby bring the operation of the restriction order to an end. Accordingly the issue of the warrant to recall was *intra vires* and valid.

Lord Justice Watkins agreed.

Solicitors: Cox McQueen, Walsall; Treasury Solicitor.

Relief for excessive distress

Steel Linings Ltd and Another v Bibby & Co (a Firm)

Before Lord Justice Balcombe, Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Peter Gibson

[Judgment March 26]

A person against whom excessive distress for unpaid non-domestic rates was levied was not barred by the relevant regulations from seeking a county court injunction to prevent the bailiffs from selling the goods distrained. But to succeed, such a person would need to establish a powerful *prima facie* case for saying that the distress had in some way been unlawful.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the first defendants, Bibby & Co, a firm of certificated bailiffs, against an interlocutory injunction granted against them by Judge Brandt at Colchester and Clacton County Court on February 19, 1993 to restrain them from selling, and ordered, subject to a number of undertakings and conditions, to make available to the first plaintiff goods which they had seized from the first plaintiff while levying distress for unpaid national non-domestic rates.

Regulation 14 of the Non-Domestic Rating (Collection and Enforcement) (Local Lists) Regulations (SI 1989 No 2260) provides: "(7) A distress shall not be deemed unlawful on account of any defect or want of form in the liability order, and no person making a distress shall be deemed a trespasser on that account; and no person making a distress shall be deemed a trespasser from the beginning on account of any subsequent irregularity in making the distress, but a person sustaining special damage by reason of the subsequent irregularity may recover full satisfaction for the special damage (and no more) by proceedings in trespass or otherwise."

Regulation 15 provides: "(1) A person aggrieved by the levy of, or an attempt to levy, a distress, may appeal to a magistrates' court..."

Mr Simon Livesey for the appellants; Mr Nicholas Valios, QC and Mr Robin Howard for the respondents.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN, giving the judgment of the court, said the first plaintiffs were manufacturers of raised steel floors at Clacton. Tendring Borough Council had obtained a liability order for £9,869 in unpaid non-domestic rates against them. The council had levied distress, a means of recovery expressly provided for in the 1989 Regulations.

The distraint process had given rise to a great deal of hostility between the parties. Six bailiffs had been involved over a period of 12 hours, so the bailiffs' charges were higher than usual and the plaintiffs had issued proceedings in the county court alleging damage to the property of the first plaintiffs and personal injury to the second plaintiff, a director.

The claim relevant to the appeal, however, was for an excessive levy of distress, the defendants having seized and removed a good deal of industrial equipment claimed by the plaintiffs to be of a minimum value of £46,340.

The plaintiffs had subsequently paid the arrears of rates and obtained the injunction under appeal, restraining the defendants from disposing of the goods, subject to the plaintiff's cross-undertaking in damages and their undertaking to apply for taxation of the defendant's charges.

The appellant's primary submission was that the 1989 Regulations provided a self-contained code or scheme which restricted an aggrieved ratepayer to his rights of appeal to a magistrates' court, at least in regard to securing the return of his seized goods.

For the respondents, Mr Vallios had drawn attention to the decision of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court in *Smith v Enright* ([1894] LT 724) which established that damages in replevin were not limited to the immediate pecuniary loss occasioned by the distress but extended to damages for annoyance and injury to credit and reputation in trade.

It seemed to their Lordships that the second limb of regulation 14(7) was directed to an irregularity subsequent to the liability order dealt with in the first limb of the regulation. Such an irregularity was not to make the distraining authority a trespasser *ab initio*. It allowed a person suffering special damage, meaning all damages caused by the irregularity, to recover full satisfaction for it, but for nothing else.

To recover that damage, proceedings might be brought in trespass and otherwise in the ordinary way in the courts. The question here was whether the respondents could not also seek redress in the county courts.

Distress for rates being a statutory remedy, authorising what otherwise would be a trespass to land and a trespass to or interference with goods, the levying of excessive distress being not authorised by statute was plainly a wrongful act. In earlier time that wrongful act would have been trespass. It was now the tort of wrongful interference with goods under the Torts (Interference with Goods) Act 1977.

Section 4 of that Act empowered the county court to order the delivery up of any goods which were or might become the subject matter of subsequent proceedings.

The county court also had power to grant replevin, the common law procedure by which the owner of chattels wrongfully distrained could obtain their re-delivery against an undertaking to provide security for the debt and costs and to pursue the action against the distrainer to determine the latter's right to distrain, although replevin was available only in cases of distress where there was no right to levy the rate, which was not the case here.

The court had concluded that there was no question of the regulations operating to oust the county court's general jurisdiction in the matter.

The judge below had been within his discretion in awarding the injunction and the court would not interfere with it.

But future debtors tempted to build upon the present decision should be warned that only very exceptionally would it be appropriate to invoke the interlocutory jurisdiction of the county court to secure the return of distrained goods. Defaulting ratepayers, or other debtors, would need to present a powerful *prima facie* case for saying that the distraint had indeed been in some respect unlawful.

Where, as here, the allegation advanced was one of excessive distraint, debtors should expect a generally sceptical reaction to their own estimation of the goods' worth.

In short, the civil courts would not allow themselves to become a ready means of escaping the proper processes and consequences of a statutory distraint.

Solicitors: Hextall Erskine & Co; Marian Small, Colchester.

Parental rights give no cause of action

In re S (Minor) (Parental Rights)

Parental rights existed to allow a parent to care for and protect his child, they did not give rise to a right of action for damages against any interference with such rights.

Judge Phelan, sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held on March 3 in a judgment in open court after a hearing in chambers, when granting an application by three defendants, a private primary school, its headmaster and a teacher, to strike out the plaintiff's writ and statement of claim for damages for negligence in respect of interference by the defendants of his parental rights.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the claim concerned a father's action against the school at which his son was a pupil while a minor from September 1985 until July 1987 in that the defendants were, *inter alia*, in breach of their duty of reasonable care towards him as the father of the boy.

In *F v Wirral Metroplitan Borough Council* (*The Times* May 28, 1990; [1991] Fam 69) the Court of Appeal had held that recognition of parental rights did not give any rights in favour of the parent *qua* parent upon which a right of action in damages against an interfering stranger could be founded.

Accordingly, his Lordship held that no claim arose on the plaintiff's pleading of a breach of a duty of care on the part of the defendants.

Disquiet over jurors' discussion

Regina v Less

The Court of Appeal expressed disquiet that after a verdict had been returned three members of a jury had spoken to the defendant to express their dissatisfaction with the manner in which the jury as a whole had approached its task, that later those observations had been written up and sent to the court, and that a few days before the hearing of the appeal a further letter to the same effect had been sent to the court by two of the jurors.

Their Lordships (Lord Justice Russell, Mr Justice Morland and Mr Justice Mantell) so stated on March 12 when giving reasons for dismissing, on March 2, the appeal of Stephen Less against his conviction on November 27, 1992 at Southwark Crown Court (Judge Hardy and a jury) of cheating the public revenue.

MR JUSTICE MANTELL said that in the light of the court's observations in *R v Thompson (Frank William George)* ([1962] 46 Cr App R 72) and *R v Bean* ([1991] Crim LR 843), stating emphatically that as a matter of public policy no enquiry would be made as to what might have happened in a jury room, counsel for the appellant invited their Lordships to proceed as if neither letter had been written.

That their Lordships were content to do, but only after expressing their disquiet that such documents should ever have come into existence, let alone that they should have been placed before the court. All the grounds of appeal failed.

Recording decision

Regina v Bevan

When a decision was taken by a defendant not to go into the witness box it should be the invariable practice of counsel to have that decision recorded and to cause the defendant to sign the record giving a clear indication of (i) the fact of his having, of his own accord, decided not to give evidence and (ii) that he had done that bearing in mind the advice, regardless of what it was, given to him by learned counsel.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Watkins, Mr Justice Macpherson of Cluny and Mr Justice Turner) so stated on March 11 in dismissing an appeal by Terence Steven Bevan against his conviction in October 1991 at Birmingham Crown Court (Mr Justice Judge and a jury) of unlawful wounding.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS, giving the judgment of the court, said that if it was not at present the practice to make such a record then it ought to be. It certainly was in the days when the members of the court were practising at the Bar. If the practice had fallen by the wayside it was to be hoped that it would be restored.

Clerk to hear submissions in court before advising

Regina v Chichester Justices, Ex parte Director of Public Prosecutions

Before Lord Justice Evans and Mr Justice Morland

[Judgment March 15]

Where a clerk, who was not present in court when legal submissions were made, was asked to advise the justices on points of law, it was of the utmost importance that he heard in open court informally, if necessary, those submissions from the parties concerned.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, when allowing an application by the Director of Public Prosecutions for judicial review of the decisions of Chichester Justices on August 14, 1992: (i) refusing to try together charges against Alfred Joseph Finneran on the ground that those charges were inconsistent with each other, namely (a) failing without reasonable excuse to provide a specimen of breath for analysis, and (b) failing without reasonable excuse to provide a specimen of blood or urine for analysis contrary to section 7(6) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and Schedule 2 to the 1988 Act, and (ii) directing that the charges be tried separately and by different constituted benches.

The case was remitted to the justices with a direction to try the two charges together.

The clerk, who was not present when formal submissions were made to the court by both counsel, was called by the justices to advise them on points of law, namely whether it was appropriate for the two charges to be tried together.

The justices, upon the clerk's advice, held that it was not appropriate for both counts to be tried together and that the charges be tried separately and by differently constituted benches.

Mr James Turner for the DPP; Mr Nicholas Bridges-Adams for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE MORLAND said that it was of the utmost importance in such situations that where a clerk advising the justices was not the clerk who was present while legal submissions were made to the court, that that clerk did hear argument in open court and not informal submissions in some corridor or private place from counsel, solicitor or the parties to the case.

It was of the utmost importance that the appearance of fairness and openness in proceedings was observed and that actual fairness to both parties took place and was seen to take place in court.

Solicitors: CPS, Chichester; Thomas Eggar Verrall Bowles, Chichester.

Correction

In *Adekeye v Post Office* (*The Times* March 23) Miss Ingrid Simler, for the employers, is a barrister not a solicitor, and she was instructed by Mr Brian A. Holland, Croydon.

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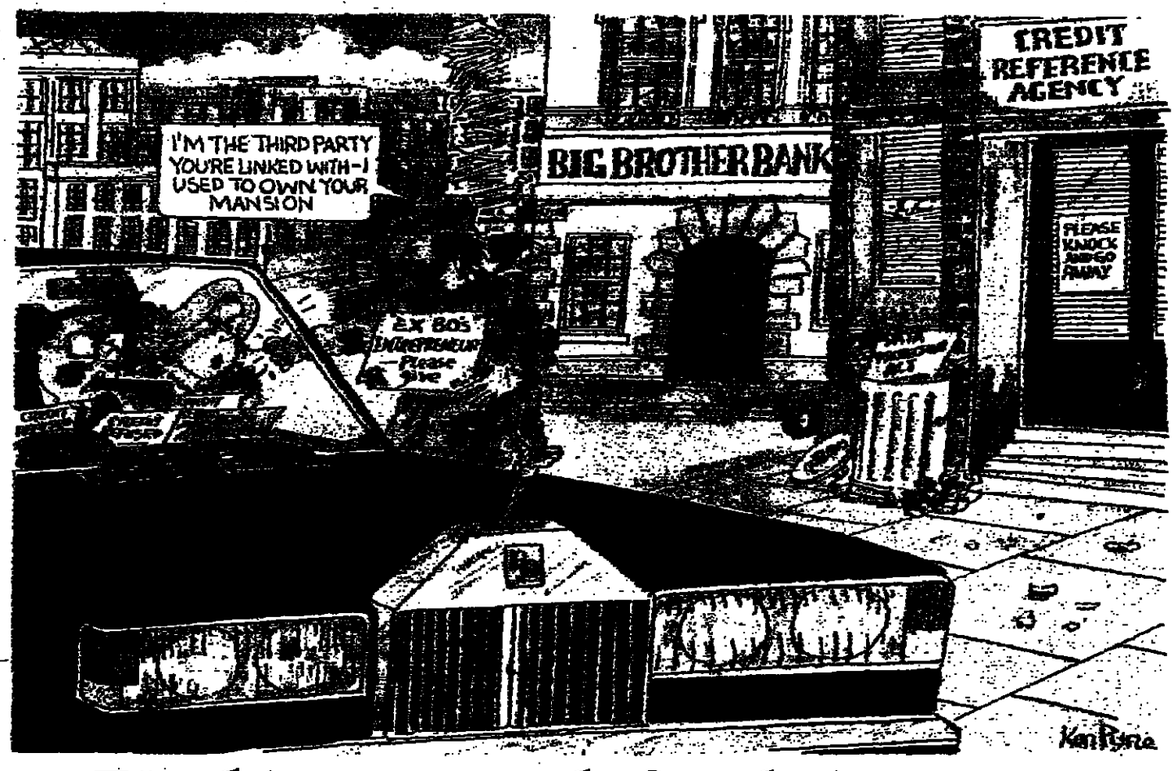
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The law has got in a twist over the data protection rules, **Christopher Dwyer** reports



When a third party takes your credit

Sally is feeling aggrieved. Her sister Lucy (not their real names), after being refused credit by more than one bank, exercised her right to ask the banks for the name and address of any credit reference agency they had consulted about her. Armed with this information, Lucy obtained from the agency the information they had in her file.

It transpired that, in addition to information about Lucy, Sally's credit history was also included, simply because the sisters had at one time lived together. As if that was not enough, the credit history of another woman, a complete stranger, was included because she had previously lived at Lucy's address.

Sally wants to know what redress she has against the embarrassing disclosure of her credit rating. The Data Protection Act was intended, was it not, to protect our privacy in such matters?

Unfortunately, this is a grey area of the law where the 1984 Data Protection Act overlaps the 1974 Consumer Credit Act. The latter appears to require a disclosure that the former forbids.

The Data Protection Act gives a right to compensation to anybody who suffers distress by reason of unauthorised disclosure of personal data. But this does not apply to data held by credit-reference agencies, since they are governed entirely by the Consumer Credit Act. The agencies argue that this Act requires them to give a copy of their file to the consumer on demand.

Ah, but there is a flaw in this argument. Section 158 of the Consumer Credit Act states that a credit reference agency "shall give the consumer a copy of the file *relating to him* kept by the agency". One of its subsections states that "file", in relation to an individual, means all the information *about him* kept by a credit reference agency. Information about a third party surely is not information about the applicant.

Despite the logic of this argument, the Office of Fair Trading has so far advised credit-reference agencies that the whole file should be disclosed even if this means disclosing information about somebody else.

This could mean, for example, that someone who buys a house after it has been repossessed may find that they are linked by a credit agency with the previous occupants — and in turn be regarded as a bad risk.

The National Consumer Council says that it is "opposed in principle to the use of third-party information in credit-risk assessment". The council believes that the only circumstances in which such information can fairly be used is in assessing a non-earning spouse who has no personal credit record; consideration of the other partner's circumstances might make the lender more disposed to lend.

The Data Protection Registrar, too, takes the view that any use of third-party information is a violation of data-protection principles. After failing to persuade the credit reference agencies to stop this practice, the registrar issued an "enforcement notice" requiring them to do so. The agencies appealed to the Data Protection Tribunal which ruled that, in prohibiting the use of such information entirely, the registrar had gone too far.

The tribunal ruled that third-party information can properly be used when it concerns people with the "same or similar name who are reasonably believed to live as members of the family of the subject in a single household".

The credit-reference agencies have been given until July 1 this year to bring their practice into line with this ruling. So what can you do if you suspect that your credit history has been recorded as linked with someone else's?

First, if you have been negotiating for credit within the past 28 days, the lender is bound to supply you, on a written request, with the name and address of any credit reference agency he has consulted about you.

If you have not been seeking credit recently, it may still be worth asking for this information, but the lender is not bound to give it. If he refuses, you could try writing to the three leading credit-reference agencies (addresses can be obtained from local Citizens' Advice Bureaux) asking for a copy of any information they have recorded about you. They would then be obliged to supply such information.

If the information is accurate, you cannot insist on having it deleted before July 1, 1993. After that date, the agency must delete it if your only connection with the other person is that you live (or have lived) at the same address. Even if there is a further connection — the same surname — the agency must still delete the information about you if by that date you have informed the agency that you and the other person do not live in the same household.

If you want to distance yourself from the other person before July 1, 1993, both the Office of Fair Trading and the Data Protection Registrar recommend that you write to the agency stating that your financial affairs are in no way connected. The agency must then record your statement as part of the file, so any future enquirer who gets the file will get your statement too.

This is a poor second-best, if what you really want is to keep your affairs confidential. But it is the best option for the time being, given that two Acts of Parliament — both designed to protect the consumer — have got matters in a twist.

● *The author is a barrister.*

Beauty parade turns sour

The tendering for the work of an important client has caused ructions

The customer may have become king in the legal services business, but that does not mean that his rule is wise, let alone beneficent. A barrage of harsh words has been exchanged in the past few weeks over the way clients are dealing with their lawyers, particularly when it comes to pitches and presentations.

The focus of this controversy has been the exercise conducted by Allied-Lyons in selecting its preferred legal advisers. No public statement has yet been issued about the outcome, but there are strong rumours that Bevan Ashford, of Bristol, and Edge & Ellison, of Birmingham, have emerged as the successful contenders. In reaching this point, however, there has been much expenditure of effort and no less expression of indignation at the way the tendering process has been conducted.


Roger Bruce: how to win

In an effort to streamline its relationship with law firms it invited more than a dozen, both from the City and the regions, to pitch for the work and make presentations. At the end of a beauty parade Andrew Gibb, the senior consultant in the Allied-Lyons Profit Improvement Unit who ran the selection, went public on his reactions. In short, he was scathing. "Suffice to say that we were almost totally underwhelmed," he said.

In return the law firms were not very impressed by Mr Gibb.

No doubt there are rights and wrongs on both sides. The intensity of the mutual antipathy, however, clearly reflects the tensions in the market, with clients attempting to rein in what they perceive as unaccountable lawyers and the firms offended by what they see as naive clients.

Theodord Goddard was not one of the firms involved in the pitch but Roger Bruce, the marketing manager, a veteran of competitive tendering across a number of industries, was unsurprised by the carnage. "The real challenge in these situations is to get to the heart of the client's problem," he says.

Mr Bruce offers a three-point formula for winning tenders. "First demonstrate that you understand the commercial issues facing the client. Then address those briefly. And finally show your real expertise in answering the questions that are put to you at the presentation. It is at the question and answer stage that most tenders succeed or fail."

There is, however, no surefire guarantee of success. Irrational factors, together with personal chemistry, can often be decisive and the best research and most eloquent pitch can still fall victim to a capricious judgment.

To try to calm the uncertainty caused by the presentation a new consultancy, Proposals Strategy Limited, has just been formed to help law firms. It aims to work with clients as they develop individual bids.

"Every tender is different," says John de Forte, the director. "What you must not do is merely comply with a brief. You have to interpret it. The written proposal should make a compelling case for why your firm is best able to meet the company's needs, not just a purely factual response to a set of questions."

In the wake of the Allied-Lyons affair, what clearly needs to happen is for clients and lawyers alike to address what they really want out of these exercises.

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A Fluctuating Market
The job-market has fluctuated over the past year or so in a series of waves which raise our hopes every time we sense an upturn. It is happening again now, with signs of increasing demand for certain specialisations. Most encouraging, perhaps, is the demand - not seen since 1989 - for young residential conveyancers. As this specialisation was the first to suffer, its revival may be significant. Other growth areas include employment lawyers (but this may still reflect the high level of redundancies); personal injury lawyers - especially on the defendant side - from newly qualifieds to partnership level; environmental specialists; insurance litigators; and senior corporate and banking lawyers (especially in the North of England). A growing niche area is telecommunications and broadcasting, including satellite and cable TV - there are several intellectual property firms needing lawyers with this area of expertise. In industry, too, there are some signs of fresh activity. New in-house legal departments have been set up, for instance, in some of the smaller companies.
My own theory about prospects - which I've mentioned here before - is that the world economy has entered a new phase with the end of the Cold War. Gone are its old stabilising supports - the arms race (with its vast industrial output) and the former communist economies which gave western industry a sizeable and stable export market. We are left with the economic cycle of capitalism untempered and in full force. On this view the world recession could last a few more years, and the revival when it comes could be explosive.
Michael Chambers

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McDonald's to widen franchise outlets

BY DEREK HARRIS

PAWNBROKING, in an updated guise, was one of a number of new franchises that appeared at last weekend's National Franchise Exhibition (NFE) in London. It also emerged that McDonald's, the international burger chain, in a drive to franchise more of its outlets, plans to exhibit at a British franchise exhibition.

McDonald's will exhibit at the Birmingham sister show to the London one, in the autumn. McDonald's, which has more than 470 restaurants in the United Kingdom, has franchised 52 of them, and now wants substantially more.

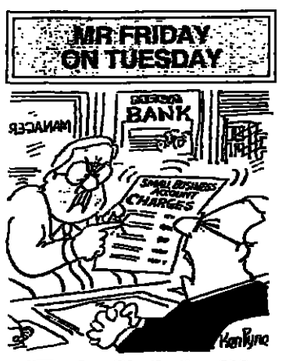
A McDonald's franchise typically costs about £500,000, but a leasing scheme introduced recently cuts initial investment to £40,000. The franchisee is expected to buy out the remaining investment value after three years.

A part-pawnbroking franchise is Cash Converters, a chain of 70 franchised stores in Australia that is beginning to get into its stride in Britain. In addition to pawnbroking, the franchises buy and sell quality second-hand goods, with an emphasis on household electrical appliances. Old images are dropped in favour of a bright, modern retailing format and integrity is seen as a key element. Special training builds negotiation skills.

Paul and Mark Hare, brothers, are master franchisors for the UK. They are planning a nationwide chain. So far, eight outlets are operating. Initial investment cost is about £50,000.

Another newcomer to the UK is the American Arby's fast-food chain, selling hot roast beef sandwiches. It already has an outlet in central London, but anticipates expansion nationally by franchising. Investment levels, as might be expected, are similar to McDonald's at about £500,000.

At the other end of the scale, Family Heirlooms is offering a licensed consultancy to research worldwide surnames at an investment of just under £10,000. Enquiries: Blenheim (exhibition organisers) on 071-742 2828.



"That? — Oh, that's a £12 complaining fee"

Bright service sparks payment

BY RODNEY HOBSON

GETTING big businesses to pay promptly can be done. Richard Jowsey, managing director of a small firm testing portable electrical equipment, says: "We allow our customers 14 days to pay. Some send a cheque by return post and four days is quite normal. They accept that they have had a professional service. In today's market if people are pleased with the service they will pay."

Yet Mr Jowsey's company, Oxon PA Testing, ranks names such as Mercury, Siemens, Bupa, NEC, county councils and universities among its clients. Companies like these are not accustomed to having terms dictated by a supplier employing 20 people.

Oxon PA Testing makes clear its terms from the start. A potential customer is sent a brochure giving clear details of prices right down to a 20p charge for changing a fuse. The prices apply no matter where the testing is to be done. Nor is there an extra charge for testing during the night or at weekends.

The client is asked if there is any problem with the terms. Mr Jowsey says: "They can pay us or they can pay someone else higher prices for 30 or 60-day terms. The majority want to save money and it is worth paying us 20 or 30 days earlier when they could be saving £10,000. Money has got to flow. The days of hanging on to it are gone."

Bob Gray, a fellow director, said: "Any business can arrange to make payment in 14 days. If anyone tells us we have to wait we tell them to go somewhere else. Often we get an apologetic phone call ten or 14 days later saying OK."

STEPHEN MARKESON



Team effort: Richard Jowsey, seated, managing director of Oxon PA Testing, with some of his staff

Customers get telephone reminders seven and ten days after the invoice goes out. Mr Jowsey says no one runs over the 14 days. He says: "If they did, I would not be careful with my words. We have done the work and we want paying. I am not interested in excuses such as the cheque book has been lost or the finance director is on holiday." The customers are entitled to a similar professional attitude. Mr Jowsey says: "If we tell our testers to be there at 7.30 in the morning then twenty to eight is not good enough. We do not accept lateness. The normal working day is to 5.30 pm and that is when our staff wash their hands, not at 4.30 pm. Our guys love it because they feel they are working for a professionally-run company. When they get back the management team is still here. If we expect them to get up at 5 am and get back at 8 pm then we must do the same."

Oxon PA Testing has expanded through self-financing and its hard-earned money is not squandered. All the staff, including Mr Jowsey, have small, diesel powered cars, but the office has no comforts. Mr Gray says: "It is more important to put two more testers on the road than to have a Wilton carpet."

BRIEFINGS

A small business club, where owners can examine single market issues and share examples of best practice, has been started with local training and enterprise council support by Birmingham Pickup Europe Regional Centre (Sally Watts writes). The centre, at Matthew Boulton College, has produced updated guides on Europe for a wide range of sectors from audio-visual to printing and construction; each costs £7.50 and includes a section on single market legislation for business. With a grant from the regional DTI, the centre is preparing an electronic mail and database system to link West Midlands providers of advice and training.

☐ Baronsmead, the venture capital company that specialises in smaller and medium-sized business opportunities, is raising new investment money by launching a direct equity programme. Baronsmead typically invests between £500,000 and £2 million in businesses, so is operating in areas particularly suited to smaller management buyouts and buy-ins. Baronsmead is at Clerkenwell House, 67 Clerkenwell Road, London EC1R 5BH.

☐ Hertfordshire training and enterprise council is planning a business masterclass on collecting debts without resorting to strong-arm tactics. It will be held on May 12, at Dane End. The subsidised cost is £75 for businesses with fewer than 50 employees. Contact: Maggie Martin on 0707 647359.

EDITOR DEREK HARRIS

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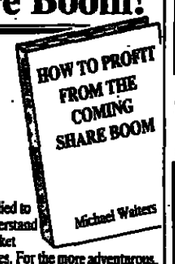
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POP page 34
Barry Manilow: New sensitivity and a quirky genius to his mastery of the middle of the road

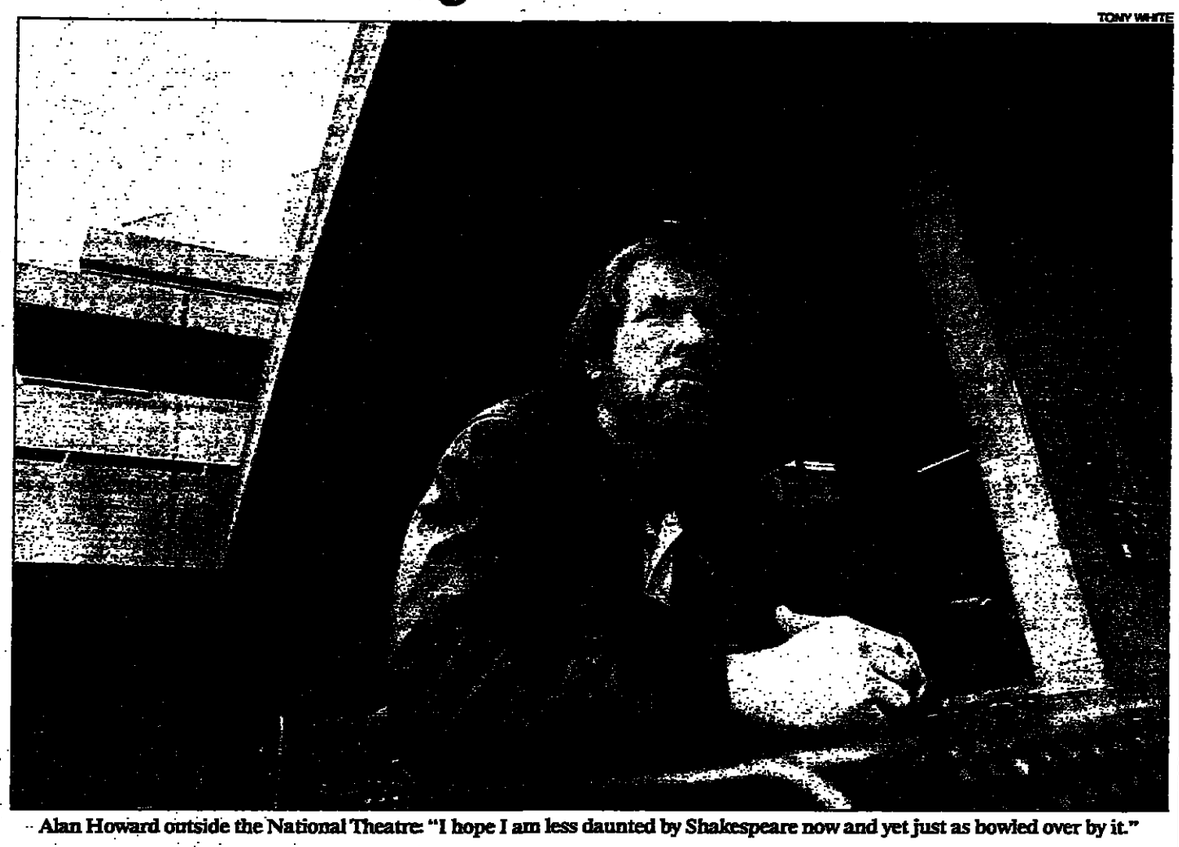
ARTS

MUSIC page 35
After Henryk Gorecki's triumph, which obscure composer will be next to climb the charts?



THEATRE: **Matt Wolf** meets Alan Howard, returning to Shakespeare. Plus *Richard III* at Stratford

Howard's way back to Will



TONY WHITE

Alan Howard outside the National Theatre: "I hope I am less daunted by Shakespeare now and yet just as bowled over by it."

During the late Sixties and throughout the Seventies, Alan Howard acting Shakespeare was a British theatrical given. From his 1966 Royal Shakespeare Company debut as Orsino in *Twelfth Night*, through to Peter Brook's landmark *Dream*, the Henry plays, and *Coriolanus*, Howard looked ready to outpace the likes of McKellen and Jacobi in the Bardic sweepstakes. Then the stage actor went quiet in the Eighties, shifting his attention to film and television only to re-emerge at Chichester and at the National in the past few years.

If all eyes are on him once more as he prepares his first Macbeth, the attention extends beyond the sheer daring of opening the Scottish play on April Fool's Day. *Macbeth* marks Howard's first Shakespearean foray since his RSC engagements as Richards II and III in 1980; it is a belated reunion of the actor and the dramatist on whom he made his career. Or, to use Howard's preferred metaphor, it is an overdue assault on a fresh set of dramatic peaks.

"I had always considered Macbeth to be at the younger end of the next mountain range," the actor, 55 years old, makes clear early on in discussion, a beard still in midgrowth. "I purposefully decided not to do Shakespeare for a bit; I even did not do theatre for quite a long time because I had done so much on the trot. I thought it would be a good trick just to leave it for a bit and then start, really, on the next range of roles."

Not that Howard envisioned quite so prolonged a hiatus. "That was not really intended; like most of these things, it just sort of happened." What was intended was time out with his family — his second wife, novelist Sally Beauman and their 18-year-old son — alongside an altered career focus that might shift the actor's own performance style.

"I wanted to try and learn something about film, about inverting the process of putting the voice out that far and instead actually taking it in and in and in." In the end, he continues, the break proved quite therapeutic. "I hope I am less daunted by Shakespeare now and yet just as bowled over by it. One might have found a way of not getting tripped up so much in one's own complications in order to present the true complication of what he is driving at."

Howard's spell away from the theatre did lead to other work: he was Helen Mirren's paramour in Peter Greenaway's film *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover*, and appeared in projects as varied as Nick Ward's low-budget *Dakota Road* and, on television, John Le Carré's *A Perfect Spy* and *The Double Helix*, with Jeff Goldblum. What the period never did was lead to the high profile Hollywood work enjoyed by contemporaries as Anthony Hopkins, Albert Finney and Alan Bates.

All of which, Howard comments wryly, suits him just fine. "I was never going to be a kind of Meryl Streep figure. If anything like that had by some extraordinary chance occurred, I think I would have been very worried. I knew the kind of work I would be doing would be maybe some good character roles; it was not going to be zonking great cinema heroes. They do not exist really for an actor like me and certainly not in this country so there was no danger of that, and I knew I was not going to be grabbed by the crowd over on the West Coast."

> 'I was never going to be a kind of Meryl Streep figure'

His own thespian ancestry notwithstanding — his great-grandfather, Edward Compton, made his name in John O'Keeffe's play *Wild Oats* in a part Howard himself did for the RSC in 1976 — the actor admits to a distaste for the standard touchstones of fame. "I thought for a long time and maybe still now I slightly resent that you can do really terrific work in the theatre but until you get the Hollywood picture, you are not on the map."

Not for him "the Stratford Syndrome, where some huge movie director would come, and you were then whisked off. I always thought that was a bit unfair: why shouldn't you be known as a very good theatre actor? It didn't mean you were not as good or better or any different from a good film actor. Of course," he adds, "it would be wonderful to be very good at doing both."

Howard's family offered instances of both types of career. His father Arthur was best known as a comedy actor who spent 18 months on the West End in *No Sex Please, We're British*. His uncle Leslie — 16 years his father's senior — was the matinee-idol, star of *Pygmalion*, a play Howard has acted on two occasions, most recently with near-manic ferocity last year in his National Theatre debut. ("He's fairly monstrous," Howard says of Shaw's famous elocutionist, Professor Higgins. "He laughs one minute and screams his head off the next.")

How, initially, did Howard gravitate toward Shakespeare? School productions offered up roles from Celia in *As You Like It* through to Oswald, Demetrius, and Autolycus. Then, too, there was an almost unconscious desire to forge a career different from his forebears. "I suppose, as always happens in families, if somebody has kind of made a big success somewhere, an element of you says, 'Well, I won't do that. In order to do my bit, I'm going to do something else.'"

Once the RSC beckoned, Howard found himself caught up "in the idea of big companies," and the organisation's own momentum suited his personality. "I am not a great designer of projects as such; I do rather put it a bit in the lap of the gods. When people say 'what parts would you like to play?', even when they're quite interesting people, my mind goes completely blank."

Howard's non-Shakespearean work for the RSC included the German academic co-opted by the Nazis in C.P. Taylor's *Good*, a play which took him to Broadway in 1982, and, in 1985, the West End transfer of Stephen Poliakoff's *Breaking The Silence*, playing a Russian-Jewish inventor.

But the Bard continues to be his yardstick, and Howard now faces the famously difficult challenge of a distilled play whose supernatural associations have been known to hover unhappily over both its off-stage and on-stage life. Nevertheless, the actor speaks calmly of the task, even allowing the play's title to be spoken in his presence. "There is a domestic intimacy as well as a colossal outside area: those two things are in the play, and one has to try and honour them both. It is as if Shakespeare is trying to wind us up to become witnesses of this terrible thing that happens; he doesn't let you off the hook for a second."

● *Macbeth, directed by Richard Eyre and featuring Anastasia Hille as Lady Macbeth, is in preview tonight and tomorrow at 7.15pm and opens on Thursday at 7pm. Olivier, Royal National Theatre (071-928 2252), South Bank, London SE1*

Monster runs out of charm

Richard III
Swan, Stratford

When Simon Russell Beale's crewcut tortoise of a Crookback first tapped his way onto the stage of The Other Place last August my colleagues enjoyed themselves describing his extraordinary appearance. Benedict Nightingale called him a depraved blend of Mr Punch and A.A. Milne's Piglet. Others were reminded of Magwitch and Mussolini. The characters in the play tell him to his face that he is a toad, a hedgehog, dog and bottled spider, but their minds are too simple to notice that what makes him so fascinating a villain is his ferocious sense of humour.

In Sam Mendes's clever production (playing here until May) Beale seizes on innocent little words and plays larky tricks with them, lifting disdainful eyebrows to accompany grand sentiments, cutting off his breath to let the voice exhaust itself, adding extra syllables to "lute" to signal weary contempt for its lascivious pleasures. His is a high camp performance, conveyed not through arm gestures or posture, which are as butch as his limping gait and lumpy back allow, but in tone of voice, popping eyes and awful smile.

It is perfectly credible that he can charm Lady Anne or Clarence, pressing his ear affectionately against his brother's chest, because his opening soliloquy has already charmed us. Wicked and treacherous he is everything we should abhor, but his teasing manner is irresistible.

His sinister allure continues until the last part of the evening, when the preliminaries for battle drag his adventure down into the ordinariness of just another history play. To some extent Mendes copes with this by using mad Queen Margaret (Cherry Morris) as a permanent chronicler. She reappears before each murder at an upper door of Tim Hatley's grey wall of doors, repeating in a murmur the curse she laid on the victim at the early council meeting, where her entry was greeted with a general wail of impatience. Mendes places Richard and Richmond at opposite ends of a long table instead of in separate tents, and the ghosts of Richard's victims appear abruptly between them, menacing revellers at a dinner party turning sour.

For Richard now to start suffering a bad conscience is unmotivated, except that Margaret foretold it — and in her last appearance freezes the arm that is about to slay Richmond. We are left to suppose that, like scholars driven to pass exams and bereft of purpose after acquiring their PhD, the route to the crown was Richard's sole concern.

Mendes was thought to have concentrated more upon Richard than on the surrounding cast, but if this was so last August the actors have since played themselves into the roles: Stephen Boxer's merciless Buckingham, Annabelle Apsion's luckless Anne, treated as if invisible on her throne, Kate Duchêne's alertly anxious Elizabeth.

Simon Dormandy plays the golden-tongued Clarence and a subtly detailed Ratcliffe, executing the fallen lords by placing his hands across their eyes and turning off the naked lightbulb above their heads. But the energy of the production comes, as it must, from Beale's demonic ironist, testing the gullibility of others to the utmost, gleefully, uniquely self-aware.

JEREMY KINGSTON

DONALD COOPER



With the princes: Simon Russell Beale, "his teasing manner is irresistible", with Kate Duchêne and Annabelle Apsion

TELEVISION REVIEW: **Nigel Hawkes**

Not quite all the way to hell

Horizon
BBC 2

In the global ozone balance, how much hath God wrought, and how much mankind? Nobody but the occasional eccentric now denies that the production of chlorine chemicals for use in refrigerators and insulators has had a serious effect on the levels of ozone in the stratosphere. But is this manmade effect significant when compared with the spectacular pyrotechnics of volcanoes?

Last night's *Horizon* set out to find the answer with the aid of an eight-legged robot called Dante, designed in Pittsburg to be lowered down the crater of Mount Erebus, a volcano in Antarctica that lies within the area encompassed by the ozone hole. Dante was designed in a bit of a rush to descend into the inferno of Erebus, the Greek for hell. Originally, by a fine literary conceit, all too rare among scientific projects, Dante was designed to be controlled by a second robot on the surface called Virgil, but appears to have been heaved over the edge by several strong men.

The inside of volcanic craters is no place for the nervous. A previous expedition to Erebus in 1978 ended in near disaster when a vulcanologist lowered down on a rope was bombarded with red hot lumps of lava and was quickly hauled up again. Since then, nobody has risked a second try. Yet only observations at the very lava's edge, down where the magma boils and bubbles, can really tell us what the gases are that emerge from volcanoes into the atmosphere. Hence the robot Dante, built with money from the United States' space agency Nasa, which hopes that experience inside volcanoes may one day come in useful on Mars.

The mission was of more than academic interest. Cancers of the skin such as malignant melanoma and squamous cell carcinoma are rising alarmingly, especially in Australia and New Zealand, two countries populated by white-skinned settlers from greyer climes. So far, all of this increase can be attributed to the taste for sunbathing, and none to increased levels of ultraviolet radiation caused by ozone depletion. The ozone hole is too recent to have contributed anything much. But future prospects are alarming, unless ozone-depleting chemicals are quickly brought under control.

After setting the scene so admirably, it has to be said that *Horizon* was let down by technology. Barely 20 feet into the crater, Dante developed a kink in its umbilical cord and stopped sending useful information back. Hauled out almost as ignominiously as its live predecessor, the robot left all the interesting questions unanswered.

The film prompted a few reflections. For years, environmentalists have been arguing that the production of hundreds of new chemicals every year is a form of Russian roulette, with the global environment as the potential victim. So far, though, the earth has mostly had the last laugh, turning out to have a multitude of ways of rendering harmless almost everything the chemical industry can throw at it. The chlorine chemicals, superficially the most benign of products, barely capable of hurting a fly, have proved the major exception.

The lesson, I suppose, is the familiar one about the price of security being eternal vigilance. While the biosphere is tougher than some have feared, like all systems it has its unexpected weaknesses. As Dante proved, an organism representing the finest in robot technology can be found out by a kink in its umbilical. Not by great things but by small will the earth perish.

Franco, Piero and Alida makes three

FRANCO ZEFFIRELLI, the Italian film director whose last big-screen endeavour brought the spectacle of "Mad Max" Mel Gibson in *Hamlet*, starts his cameras rolling again this week. He is in Sicily to make a film called *The Sparrow*, and has been able to persuade out of retirement two of the greats from the past.

Piero Tosi, who did the designs for *Death in Venice*, is in charge of sets and costumes. And the distinguished Italian actress Alida Valli, best known for walking and walking and walking through a Viennese cemetery in the closing shot of Orson Welles's *The Third Man*, will make a cameo appearance. Vanessa Redgrave has also been signed up, to play a mad nun.

ARTS BRIEFING

● LLOYD Newson, director of DV8 Physical Theatre, is venturing into new territory: the world of opera. Having already completed the choreography for Richard Jones's production of *Mazeppa* in Bregenz, Newson is now working on David Alden's new production of Handel's *Ariodante* for English National Opera. Premiered at Covent Garden in 1735, the original opera included more dance than was usual at that time and the participation of the celebrated French dancer, Marie Sallé, doubtless added to the opera's appeal. *Ariodante* opens on April 28.



Zeffirelli: off to Sicily for a spot of bird-watching

Last chance . . .

FRAN LANDESMAN's witty, clear-eyed and wry (the word can't be avoided) poems work well as lyrics for songs. It is said that "Spring Can Really Hang You Up The Most" began as a hip riposte to Eliot's "April is the cruellest month" but then became a jazz standard. Thirty of her poems have been set to new music for *Invade My Privacy* (Riverside Studios, 081-748 3354 until Saturday) and cleverly staged as if in a restaurant where four diners wait in vain for food. Astringent, wise, surreal and a bit mad, the mix is a real tonic.

OPERA: **John Higgins** sets sail for a jolly jaunt with D'Oyly Carte

Steering right in the Cornish mist

Pirates of Penzance
Alexandra, Birmingham

Send not for Ken Russell, just play Gilbert & Sullivan straight. That is the message from the D'Oyly Carte's new staging of *The Pirates of Penzance* and, after the vulgar trumpery of *Princess Ida* at the Coliseum, it is a welcome one. Gilbert is allowed to crack his own jokes — and so is Sullivan. There was always a vein of parody running through the Sullivan scores and it was never more evident than in *The Pirates*. Donizetti, Gounod and Co. are gently mocked and John Owen Edwards in the pit lets his orchestra smile.

On stage the comedy is broader. The pirate ship rolls out of the Cornish mists like a jolly Flying Dutchman and disgorges an equally jolly crew to swill its pirate sherry. One of the new qualities of the revived D'Oyly Carte is the strength of its chorus, male and, especially, female. Major-General Stanley's daughters come tripping on, parasols a-twirl, delectable dishes for any pirate band.

Stuart Maunder's production, shared with Australia's Victoria State Opera, is out to please and he persuades his cast to turn on full charm. David Fieldsend and Kathleen Tynan play Frederic and Mabel as young lovers from an Ivor Novello romance. (Not for nothing is the D'Oyly Carte asking its customers whether it should venture beyond G & S.) He has a graceful tenor and looks good in a three-piece suit once he has thrown off his pirate gear. She scores bull's eyes with the notes of the waltz song. Together they establish the duet "Ah, leave me not to pine" as one of the best numbers of the score, something not always realised.

Major-General Stanley is meant to be a new Cornish landowner, but Alan Watt has stepped straight from a Scottish regiment: kilt, sporran and the constant threat that he will break into a sword dance. Gareth Jones's Sergeant of Police is happy to lay on a music-hall turn, which is roughly what Gilbert had in mind.

Ruth, the pirates' maid of all work and the "remains of a fine woman" presents problems. If feminists ever made their way to *The Pirates* they would get instant apoplexy at the way Gilbert treats her in Act I. Jill Pert makes her more sympathetic than usual, but her diction, especially in song, is poor.

Roger Kirk's sets are undistinguished and that for the ruined chapel by moonlight of Act II could be rethought before the company starts its summer tour. But musically all is well. The D'Oyly Carte is clearly out to entertain. With the Offenbach *Orpheus* and now *The Pirates*, they look like succeeding.

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TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

LONDON

CITY OF ANGELS: Multi-award winning Broadway musical by Larry Gelbart and Cy Coleman, set in the world of 1940s private eye movies. With Roger Allam and Martin Smith, directed by Michael Blakemore. Opening night.
Prince of Wales, Coventry Street, W1 (071-839 5972). Tonight, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm

FIDELIO: Adolf Dresen's production, not greatly admired when it was first seen at Covent Garden in 1990, returns in a restaged version by Patrick Young. A strong cast includes Josephine Barstow as Leonore, Josef Protschka as Florestan, Kurt Rydl as Rocco and Willard White as Pizarro. Jeffrey Tate conducts. Opening night.
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (071-240 1066/1911), 7.30pm.

LONDON PHILHARMONIC: A veteran Wagnerian, Hildegard Behrens performs the closing scene from Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* in a programme which contrasts it with the final and equally tragic scene of *Salome*. The evening begins lightly with Schubert's song *Death and the Maiden*. The concert is conducted by the talented Austrian Franz Welser-Möst.
Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 8800), 7.30pm.

THREESOME: Triple bill from the respected Gay Sweatshop comprises Claire Dowie's *Drag Act*, David Greenspan's excellent *Jack*, and Phyllis Nagy's *Entering Queens*.
Drill Hall, Chenies Street, WC1 (071-637 8270). Preview tonight, 7.30pm; opens tomorrow, 7.30pm; then Tues-Sat, 7.30pm, until April 24.

AKIKO EBI: The Paris-based pianist performs works by J S Bach (Concerto in the Italian Style), Debussy (Piano Suite), Ravel (*Gaspard de la nuit*) and Chopin (preludes and ballads).
Purcell Room, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 8800). 8pm.

FIRES IN THE MIRROR: Anna Deavere Smith's one-woman show on the 1991 Brooklyn riots.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1745). Tonight-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm.

REGIONAL

WORTHING: To mark the bicentenary of the death of Carlo Goldoni, his comic masterpiece **The Venetian Twins** is dramatised on Oxford Stage Company. Robert David Macdonald translates, Mark Brickman directs, Peter Jordan stars as both twins.
Connaught Theatre, Union Place (0903 235333). Tonight-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, 2pm.

OXFORD: Welsh National Opera begins a week in Oxford with performances of Göran Järvefelt's gripping production of *Un ballo in maschera* (tonight, Fri); its new production of Donizetti's grand romantic opera *La Favorite* (Thurs); Yannis Kokkos's musically superior new staging of *Tristan und Isolde*, a co-production with Scottish Opera (Sat), and the perennial favourite *La Bohème* (Wed).
Apollo Theatre, George Street (0865 244544). Tonight-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 5pm.

GLASGOW: A sound of explosions and a flash of police lights opens Alan Bleasdale's new play **On the Ledge**, a comic and chaotic study of the decay of his home town of Liverpool. Following its premiere in Nottingham, Robin Lefèvre's ebulliently acted production (with Mark McGann and David Ross) tours the regions before reaching the National in late April.
Theatre Royal, Hope Street (041-332 9000). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm.

PAIGNTON: The **Russian All Stars'** unusual staging of the Tchaikovsky ballet *The Sleeping Beauty*, on ice, is intended to be popular entertainment. Although lacking in sensitivity — a lot of the small detail is missing from the choreography and the recorded account of the music is blasted across the stage — the skill and bravura of the performances keep the audience applauding. The show is on an extensive tour of Britain until June.
Festival Theatre, The Seafront, Paignton (0803 558641). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

CAMBRIDGE: The acclaimed National Theatre/Théâtre de Complicité production of Bruno Schulz's surreal and haunting **The Street of Crocodiles** goes on a nationwide tour.
Arts Theatre, 6 St Edward's Passage (0223 352000). Tonight-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm.

SHEFFIELD: One of the great partnerships in British ballet is reunited in Gillian Lynne's *A Simple Man* when Christopher Gable and Lynn Seymour take on the roles of the artist L.S. Lowry and his mother (tonight and tomorrow). The ballet, based on Lowry's life, has been one of the most successful in **Northern Ballet Theatre's** history. Two new ballets share the bill: Derek William's jazzy *Extenzion*, and *D'Ensemble* by Graham Lustig. Sponsored by BT.
Lyceum Theatre, Tudor Square (0742 769922). Tonight-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2pm.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◧ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

☐ **CHATSKY:** Colin Firth dishes out the spleen as the hero of Griboyedov's bitter comedy. Clever staging of Anthony Burgess's translation though the play hardly lives up to its Russian reputation as a major classic.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (071-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. 140mins.

☐ **CRAZY FOR YOU:** Thrillingly staged new version of the Gershwin musical *Girl Crazy*. Exceptional entertainment value.
Prince Edward, Old Compton Street, W1 (071-734 8951). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm. 150mins.

☐ **CYRANO DE BERGERAC:** Robert Lindsay looks right as the nasally challenged hero but the production is too bustling to give enough room to the full poignancy of his fate.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. 180mins.

◧ **THE DEEP BLUE SEA:** Penelope Wilton the victim of unsatisfactory men in Rattigan's well-staged but so old-fashioned drama.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5070). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. 140mins.

◧ **FRANK PIG SAYS HELLO:** Quirky but intriguing two-hander peering into an Irish village troubled by dark deeds and a reckless piglet.
Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 2554). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 3pm. 100mins. Final week.

◧ **THE GIFT OF THE GORGON:** Blazing performance by Judi Dench in combat with Michael Pennington in Peter Shaffer's RSC success tackling the themes of justice and terrible revenge.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 3pm. 165mins.

■ **THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST:** Maggie Smith commands the brittle world of lost handbags in this elegant revival. With Alex Jennings, Richard E. Grant, Margaret Tyzack.
Aldwych, The Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 6404). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

☐ **THE INVISIBLE MAN:** Not so cosy a venue as its birthplace in Stratford East but the show is as jolly as ever. Paul Kiev's magic tricks are amazing.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (071-836 9987). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm. 150mins.

◧ **KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN:** Tremendously glossy production of the Kander & Ebb musical, based on Manuel Puig's novel. A new cast takes over led by Bebe Neuwirth.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, Sat, 3pm. 160mins.

■ **THE LAST YANKEE:** Subtle and touching Arthur Miller premiere: Margot Leicester, Peter Davison lead a quartet of middle-aged Americans troubled by material success.
Young Vic, 66 The Cut, SE1 (071-928 6363). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. 75mins.

☐ **LOST IN YONKERS:** Terrific performance by Rosemary Harris in a weighty Neil Simon comedy.
Strand, Aldwych, WC2 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. 160mins.

☐ **MISERY:** Julie T. Wallace and Nigel Le Vaillant take over the leading roles in Stephen King's thriller.
Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (071-839 4488). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. 150mins.

☐ **MURDER IS EASY:** But an antiquated Agatha Christie adaptation is hardly worth doing.
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm. 140mins.

☐ **NO MAN'S LAND:** Paul Eddington and the author in tense, sharply comic Pinter. Riveting stuff.
Comedy, Panton Street, W1 (071-867 1045). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. 130mins.

◧ **ON THE PISTE:** John Godber's slight but amusing look at partner trouble in a downmarket ski resort.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-494 5085). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. 135mins.

◧ **PLAYLAND:** Athol Fugard's two-hander: white man and black man, loitering outside a fairground, haul up their past and hint at the future. Builds to an eloquent climax.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (071-867 1150). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. 90mins.

☐ **ROBIN — PRINCE OF SHERWOOD:** Over-loud, ridiculous.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (071-867 1118). Tues-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, Sun, 3pm. 140mins.

☐ **TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT:** John Wells, William Gaunt, Richard Kane and Christopher Gee play all 26 parts in Giles Havergal's cunning adaptation of Graham Greene's novel.
Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 (071-867 1119). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. 140mins.

◧ **UNIDENTIFIED HUMAN REMAINS AND THE TRUE NATURE OF LOVE:** Sex, selfishness and serial murder: scorching production of Canadian Brad Fraser's passionate debut play.
Hampstead, Avenue Road, NW3 (071-722 9301). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. 140mins.

LONG RUNNERS: ☐ **Blood Brothers:** Phoenix (071-867 1044) ... ☐ **Buddy:** Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) ... ◧ **Cats:** New London (071-405 0072) ... ☐ **Don't Dress for Dinner:** Duchess (071-494 5070) ... ◧ **Five Guys Named Moe:** Lyric (071-494 5045) ... ☐ **Hay Fever:** Albery (071-867 1115) ... ◧ **An Ideal Husband:** Globe (071-494 5065) ... ◧ **It Runs in the Family:** Playhouse (071-839 4401) ... ■ **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat:** Palladium (071-494 5037) ... ◧ **Les Misérables:** Palace (071-434 0909) ... ◧ **Miss Saigon:** Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (071-494 5400) ... ☐ **The Mousetrap:** St Martin's (071-836 1443) ... ■ **The Phantom of the Opera:** Her Majesty's (071-494 5400) ... ◧ **Starlight Express:** Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) ... ◧ **The Woman in Black:** Fortune (071-836 2238).

Ticket information from SWET.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **THE DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN** (15): Eddie Murphy's conman makes hay in the U.S Congress. Tame comedy from a smug star. Director, Jonathan Lynn.
MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Leicester Square** (0426 915683) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

◆ **FOREVER YOUNG** (PG): Test pilot frozen for 50 years awakes and searches for true love. Endearing old-fashioned fantasy; with Mel Gibson, Jamie Lee Curtis. Director, Steve Miner.
MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **MGM Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **MGM Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

INDOCHINE (12): Love in a hot climate. A trite plot, but Catherine Deneuve and gorgeous images carry the day. Director, Régis Wargnier.
Curzon West End (071-439 4805) **Odeon Kensington** (0426 914666)

WIND (PG): Carroll Ballard's visually luxurious but water-logged drama about the America's Cup race. With Matthew Modine, Jennifer Grey.
Plaza (071-437 1234/497 9999).

WITTGENSTEIN: Derek Jarman's jaunty portrait of philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein excites the eye and stimulates the intellect. With Karl Johnson, Tilda Swinton.
ICA (071-930 3647)

CURRENT

CRUSH (15): Impressive, jolting New Zealand fable about sexual power games; a first feature from Alison Maclean. With Marcia Gay Harden, Donogh Rees, Caitlin Bossley.
Chelsea (071-351 3742/3743) **Metro** (071-437 0757).

◆ **THE CRYING GAME** (18): IRA gunman becomes obsessed with a hostage's girlfriend. Bold, powerful Neil Jordan film that falters at the close. Stars Stephen Rea, Forest Whitaker, Jaye Davidson, Miranda Richardson.
Odeon Kensington (0426 914666) **Plaza** (071-437 1234/497 9999) **Renoir** (071-837 8402) **Screen on Baker Street** (071-935 2772).

◆ **HOFFA** (15): A star turn by Jack Nicholson as a labour leader with mob connections, but a dull David Mamet script. Director, Danny DeVito.
Barbican (071-638 8891) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **West End** (0426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

KNIFE IN THE WATER (PG): Gripping psychological games on a small sailing boat. Welcome revival of Polanski's first (and last) Polish feature, made in 1962.
Renoir (071-837 8402).

◆ **LEON THE PIG FARMER** (15): Jewish lad discovers his embarrassing pedigree. Exuberant British comedy that gets unduly silly. Stars Mark Frankel, Brian Glover, directors, Vadim Jean, Gary Sinyor.
Camden Plaza (071-485 2443) **MGM Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Odeon Kensington** (0426 914666).

◆ **MALCOLM X** (15): Spike Lee's ambitious epic. Denzel Washington is solid as the black activist, but prickly issues get sidestepped.
MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **MGM Shaftesbury Avenue** (071-836 6279) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

ORLANDO (PG): Virginia Woolf's exuberant novel about a free spirit (Tilda Swinton) who lives for 400 years, changing sex en route; filmed with great aplomb by British director Sally Potter.
Gate (071-727 4043) **Lumière** (071-836 0691) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Screen on the Hill** (071-435 3366).

◆ **A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT** (PG): Robert Redford's hymn to family, nature and fly fishing. Beautifully mounted, but lacking punch.
MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **MGM Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **MGM Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148)

◆ **SCENT OF A WOMAN** (15): A blind army veteran visits New York with a prep school pup. Far too long, with a barnstorming star (Al Pacino). With Chris O'Donnell; director, Martin Brest.
Barbican (071-638 8891) **Camden Parkway** (071-267 7034) **Empire** (071-437 1234/497 9999) **MGM Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Screen on the Green** (071-226 3520)

TOUS LES MATINS DU MONDE (12): Wonderful, melancholy portrait of French Baroque musicians.
Curzon Mayfair (071-465 8865) **Minema** (071-235 4225)

POP: **Alan Jackson** finds himself among those feeling good about feeling bad

Maturity makes him even nicer

JULIAN HERBERT



Barry Manilow: unexpectedly sensitive and understated delivery

Barry Manilow
Albert Hall

IN RECENT times, he has led the faithful towards jazz, swing and Broadway showtunes. But it is that unique gift for making fans feel good about feeling bad — his own summation of an enduring appeal — that is indulged on Barry Manilow's current "Greatest Hits and More" world tour, and which resulted in an atmosphere that was part vaudeville, part revivalist prayer meeting on this, the first of an eight-night residency.

The standing ovations began the moment the singer took the stage, dressed in the game-show host's uniform of tight trousers and loud jacket and shirt, and grew steadily longer and more frenzied until, more than two hours later, he walked off in full evening dress, leaving behind a sea of sated Manilovers. And it was those trademark thumping heart-breakers that really worked the magic.

A typical Manilow ballad begins in gentle, regretful mood, then builds slowly but inexorably to a ferocious climax. Along the way, it takes in a torrent of drums and percussion, a late but crucial change of key, and a storyline that offers more emotional counselling than an entire Victim Support Group. On record, such busy and self-important songs are too often over the top and back again, but here the singer hauled a clutch of them — "Trying To Get The Feeling", "Even Now", Randy Edelman's "Weekend in New England" included — back from the brink by an unexpectedly sensitive and understated delivery. Middle age has brought a pleasing patina to Manilow's powerful voice, while working with jazz vocalists such as Mel Tormé, Nancy Wilson and the late Sarah Vaughan has done wonders for his approach to a lyric: he phrases now with genuine grace and insight, and in doing so brings a sense of emotional honesty to material one might expect to have been dulled by over-familiarity.

There was the usual Manilow madness. Inviting an audience member up on stage to duet on "Can't Smile Without You" is, apparently, such a staple of his performance that hosts of placards bearing variations on a "choose me" theme were produced and held aloft the moment he whistled the intro'. His selection of Margaret, a school teacher from Manchester, was a lucky one — she could sing, knew all the words and had a sense of humour — and she was rewarded with a video tape of their joint performance as soon as it had concluded.

Elsewhere, a little mild innuendo, some amusingly clumsy body language and copious amounts of self-deprecating humour contributed to what was a virtuoso display of showmanship, yet still could not detract from, or diminish the evening's main revelation. Barry Manilow has grown into an extraordinarily good singer and there is a quirky genius to his mastery of that widely unfashionable territory, the middle of the road.

ROCK CONCERT

Can and must do better

The Auteurs
Underworld, Camden

A GROUP who toured with fellow Londoners Suede last year, the Auteurs have assembled a highly engaging repertoire rooted in the English songwriting tradition of David Bowie and Ray Davies. Indeed, if Suede are the Sex Pistols of the back-to-the-1970s "ziggy pop" tendency, it is not too far-fetched to imagine the Auteurs as the Clash, at least on the strength of their superlative debut album, *New Wave*.

Unfortunately, whereas Suede's appeal as a live act is even more immediate and dynamic than it is on disc, the Auteurs' show proved rather less exciting than the sum of their album's parts. For one thing, singer, guitarist and songwriter Luke Haines lacked the commanding presence which his central role demanded.

He started the show alone, with his acoustic guitar for accompaniment on "Bailed Out", a song which played to the limited strengths of his runtish voice. Joined by cellist James Banbury for "Starstruck", he sounded for a moment like Al Stewart as voice and acoustic strings weaved the delicate melodic thread into shape.

Alice Readman (bass) and Glenn Collins (drums) drifted on, Haines strapped on an electric guitar, and they eased into "Housebreaker" followed by the choppy riff and more biting melody of "Don't Trust The Stars", the first real test of the band's muscle. Although lacking any trace of personality, Readman and Collins were an adequate rhythm section, while Haines sketched in cleverly constructed chord and lead guitar parts which constantly pushed him to the limits of his abilities.

But despite such resourcefulness, and the uniformly wonderful material at his disposal, Haines's shortcomings as a singer were increasingly exposed. Many of the songs seemed to be pitched too low for him to cope with, and instead of hitting the notes of "How Could I Be Wrong", "Idiot Brother" and the shimmering "Showgirl", all he managed was an unconvincingly breathless croak. When he sang in a higher key, as on "Junkshop Clothes" and "Home Again", the spine-tingling qualities of the songs shone through.

It would be a shame to write off, because of a lack of stagecraft, a band which has been together for little more than a year; and one hesitates to disparage such an unusually gifted songwriter because of an absence of grace in performance. But the hard truth is that as a live act the Auteurs are not naturals, and much work is needed if they are not to squander a mighty potential.

DAVID SINCLAIR

CABARET

New name, new angles

Sandra Shamas
Old Vic

AS I left the auditorium, impressed and mildly shocked by this Canadian comedienne's solo *tour de force*, I thought how sad it was that Shamas is unlikely to make any headway with the public at large on her first British visit. Although attendances at her Old Vic shows are said to be high for a debutante, her material is too specifically sexual, even coarse, for television or radio.

But on Saturday night's *Zoo* (Channel 4), Jonathan Ross featured three comedians whose routines left no taste barriers unbroken. By comparison, Shamas sounds no more raunchy than a tipsy matron-of-honour at a pre-wedding girls' night out, sharing confessions of indiscretion and frustration.

I hope a radio or television producer offers Shamas some British airtime. She deserves exposure for her sharp observation, excellent timing, direct rapport with the audience and (yes) explicit humour. These she backs up with eloquent gestures and a natural clown's vividly expressive face.

Among British performers, Jo Brand offers something of the same kind, but Shamas has a warmer tone than the faultlessly savage Brand. If other comparisons are required, the American Rita Rudner is closer, but Shamas, on Thursday last wearing a black "body" beneath denim cut-offs, projects an altogether tougher image.

She boasts of her origins in Sudbury, a Canadian mining town where "the men are men. [pause] And the *women* are men." Women are expected to match the men they date drink for drink, but must never appear drunk, "or they will jump on you and hump your leg". A gigantic pair of Y-front underpants is held up for consideration and fashion analysis: "What is this little opening for? In 35 years, I have never known a man to use it."

Women's magazine images of womanhood and sanitary towel advertising are exhaustively parodied and demolished: "Those blissed-out babes, smiling like deer caught in the headlamps. I never feel like that when I have *my* period." The state of being unhappily single is explored: "The joy of being single? That's an oxymoron, like jumbo shrimp or military intelligence."

The subjects are not startlingly new, but the angles are sometimes surprising and she responds expertly to audience mood. There were few *longueurs* in the two-hour performance, which she did without the aid of a microphone (thank goodness for the Old Vic acoustics). By the end — she rather effortfully contrived to make her final line the title of her show, "My boyfriend's back and there's gonna be laundry" — she fully deserved our warm applause. More shows tomorrow, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

TONY PATRICK

DANCE

Muddle versus mayhem

Rudra Béjart
Sadler's Wells

YOUNG men fall to the ground, shot by Italian fascists; a papal procession circles the stage, passing a woman in a *belle époque* dress, a line of workers mimes planting seed to the slaves' chorus from Verdi's *Nabucco*. This is *Opéra*, which opens the second cinema-inspired programmes and plays tribute to Verdi as well as Pier Paolo Pasolini. In it, Béjart's restless imagination crams together myth and history, politics and religion, characters and themes taken from the two artists' work.

Opéra applies Béjart's large-scale manner to the small-scale capacity of his Rudra company. Set to a patchwork of Verdi's music it contains no narrative logic, instead it resembles a loosely woven tapestry of disparate people, speech, and a saxophonist who wanders through. Its structure celebrates fragmentation; Béjart is too hyperactive to let things alone. Nothing that can be interrupted remains uninterrupted. Not even Koen Onzia's solo to the Prelude from *I Masnadieri* escapes, although its elegiac, rather beautiful repeated extensions are happily free of the fussy tics that invade much of the choreography like hiccups.

As in the opening programme, the second half of this one seemed much more satisfying. In devising his new version of Bartók's *The Miraculous Mandarin* Béjart has aptly linked the ballet's grey pre-war middle-European setting and low-life violence to the cinematic style of Fritz Lang. He uses a man in drag to play the whore who lures men to their murder: "an artificial girl" whom he likens to the robot in Lang's *Metropolis*. The Mandarin, who can only be killed by love, revives after each assault; he has self-contained, slightly mechanical movements, in a utilitarian Mao suit.

Béjart shows with gruesome vividness the physical difficulty of destroying life. Confronted by the apparently immortal mandarin the band of crooks, with growing horror, try one method then another. Koen Onzia's whore, a half-man half-woman in bright lipstick and black stockings, from the start recoiled from the Mandarin in fear, but pushed back by the pimp (Martyn Fleming) she went back to her job with steely professionalism, matter-of-factly patting her kiss-curl back into place.

Bartók's story, founded on the Mandarin's unexplained strangeness, has always forced choreographers to strive hard to make it convincing. Béjart succeeds magnificently; but even if he had not, the production would be worth seeing just for the performances. Gil Roman as the Mandarin has the right combination of peculiarity and charisma. Onzia turns in a devastating portrayal, acting with subtlety and piercing realism.

NADINE MEISNER

ENTERTAINMENTS

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After Gorecki's chart triumph, 26 eminent music lovers suggest composers who deserve wider success

Rare pleasures from A to Z

The surprise success of a contemporary Polish symphony could benefit many neglected composers, writes **Richard Morrison**

Whatever else it may have achieved, Henryk Gorecki's *annus mirabilis* has disproved one gloomy but time-honoured hypothesis. Which is that if classical musicians put so much as a toe outside a certain narrow band of repertoire — no more than two dozen composers from Bach in the early 18th Century to Mahler in the early 20th — they are heading for box-office extinction.

What more certain recipe for financial ruin, then, than to release a recording of a symphony by a Polish composer so obscure that he was not even famous in Poland? A composition, moreover, which hovers between the mournful and the melancholic, and is said to have grim associations with a concentration camp.

Yet Gorecki's Third Symphony, "Symphony of Sorrowful Songs", still heads the classical charts in Britain (see below, right), with more than 200,000 copies sold, and is selling heavily in America too. And next weekend the symphony receives the ultimate cultural accolade: a whole *South Bank Show* devoted to it (Sunday, 11pm, ITV). For the film-maker Tony Palmer, who rushed out to Poland a few weeks ago to make the programme, the extraordinary appeal of the symphony can be attributed to a present-day craving for the mystical, for works that have the courage to stare fiercely into the darkest and most horrifying corners of the human condition.

That may be so. But there is little doubt that Gorecki and his symphony would have remained locked in a musty cupboard labelled "strictly for the connoisseurs" if it had not been for one record company's flash of imagination, and for the persistent championing of the work on Classic FM. It takes more than a single hearing to become properly acquainted with music as strange as this symphony. Classic FM gave it the kind of repeated exposure that had hitherto been reserved on radio for new pop singles. Indeed, the very nature of this symphony — which grips the ear instantly by its very strangeness, but then goes nowhere in particular for the next half-hour — is peculiarly suited to Classic FM's penchant for playing snippets.

The result was a spectacularly accelerated process of public appreciation. It took Mahler's symphonies 50 years to achieve the mass recognition that Gorecki's Third achieved in a matter of weeks. Classic FM started plugging the work last September; by January it was famous.

The crucial question now is: if it can be done for Gorecki, why not for hundreds of other less well known composers who have produced haunting or exhilarating compositions that deserve much wider appreciation? Eight centuries of music lies waiting to be discovered, at least by the broad mass of the public. The door only needs unlocking, and the key is held by the music profession itself. It must be reminded that its world is, in the words of the poet Louis MacNeice, "crazier and more of it than we think, incorrigibly plural".

Yet some in the music business take the pessimistic view that the Gorecki phenomenon is an unrepeatable one-off. That smacks both of defeatism and a lack of vision. With two radio stations now broadcasting non-stop classical music, with contemporary composers largely renouncing the obscure and deadly complexities of the post-1945 era in favour of a new accessibility, and with new trends in rock music communicating so little to those over the age of 22, there has surely never been a better time to start a crusade to popularise hitherto neglected jewels in the classical repertoire.



Gorecki: unlikely chart-topper

So last week *The Times* asked 26 distinguished individuals — conductors, players, singers, administrators, music-lovers, even the odd humble critic — each to champion a "minor" composer that they would like to see better known. In other words, they were to go public about their private passions. We ended up with a composer for each letter of the alphabet, not without some polite but firm coercion and some blatant cheating. Duke Ellington, a jazz great who qualifies as a minor classical composer on the strength of his Sacred Concerts, is filed under D, which is not done in the best libraries. Each individual was then asked to name a particular work that would best represent their chosen composer to the wider world.

The results were extremely varied. The good news is that 18 of the chosen 26 composers came from our own, much maligned century; the bad news is that only five are still living. Some are very famous for a single work (Nicolai with *Merry Wives of Windsor*, Adam with *Giselle*) — yet wrote pieces that are as good or better but perversely neglected. Some have fallen out of fashion (Quilter, Berkeley, Hindemith) and deserve to be reappraised in these more eclectic and less doctrinaire times.

Some are there because composers' surnames are spread very undemocratically over the alphabet (Zenakis, Ustvolskaya, Youmans) — but they, too, have their champions. Others are "nearly men" whose genius is already well appreciated by those in the know, but who need a little extra help to turn them into mainstream repertoire (Rameau, Purcell, Janáček, Cherubini). With the sustained backing of Classic FM, Purcell's music could be as widely loved as Handel's by the time of his tercentenary in 1995.

And one composer is there because he is Tchaikovsky, but not *the* Tchaikovsky. The existence of Alexander, distant relation of Pyotr Ilyich, could give a whole new meaning to the phrase that is dreaded throughout the orchestral profession: "Tchaikovsky Night at the Albert Hall". Alexander Tchaikovsky has not yet written anything involving swans or cannon-effects, but he is comparatively young yet.

Whether this list has any immediate application is doubtful. It is idiosyncratic, and certainly impractical in some respects. More than wishful thinking would be needed to stage Dame Ethel Smyth's *The Wreckers*, for instance. But in a recession, when every instinct in the cultural world is to play safe and run for cover, there is a special need for a counterpoint of challenge. Performers must retain the courage to break away from the endlessly recycled Top Twenty All-Time Favourite Symphonies. Boldness in the arts is not measured by what you do in the good times, but by what you achieve when money is tight. And music-lovers must be encouraged to feel (again in MacNeice's words) "the drunkenness of things being various". Sobriety has ruled classical music for too long.



Adam, Adolphe
Nicholas Payne, opera director-designate, Royal Opera

I love Adam for his sublimely silly ballet score, *Giselle*. But I would like to see a staging of his opera *Le postillon de Longjumeau*, if only to put the tenor through the hoops of "Mes amis, écoutez l'histoire". There's a wonderful recording of that by Helge Roswaenge, made when he was young.



Berkeley, Lennox
Michael Berkeley, composer

My father would have been 90 this year. His music is rather out of fashion right now, which is surprising, considering the increased interest in accessible music. His anthem *The Lord is my Shepherd*, for example, has an immensely direct appeal, but my favourite is his lovely setting of *Four Poems of St Teresa of Avila*.



Cherubini, Luigi
John McMurray, director, City of Birmingham Touring Opera

He is one of the great undervalued composers. Rather than his Requiems, I would choose the Coronation Mass that he wrote for a coronation that never happened. It has an extraordinary combination of Beethoven-like ruggedness, but with a sensuous Italianate vocal style.



"Duke" Ellington
Tim Waterstone, bookseller

We all know "Mood Indigo" and the other classic songs, but his Sacred Concerts, which I heard in New York in the Sixties and Seventies, contain stunning music and are too little appreciated. Ellington really was a great sacred composer. I particularly love a Mass in G Minor, which is blindingly lovely.



Enescu, George
Sarah Walker, singer

Wherever I sing Enescu's *Sept Chansons de Clément Marot*, from Cardiff to Caracas, people come up afterwards and ask me about them. They offer an absolutely perfect marriage between 16th-century poetry — Marot was Mary Stuart's favourite poet, I believe — and highly expressive and atmospheric 20th century music.



Field, John
Peter Brookes, political cartoonist, The Times

John Field (1782-1837) was Irish and dissolute, often a winning combination. His piano sonatas are pure delight (particularly the C minor), but his Nocturnes are a knock-out. Listen to No 7 in C major with its fresh, almost 20th-century sensibility, and agree with me that he knocks Chopin into a cocked hat.



Glazunov, Alexander
David Mellor, MP

Glazunov's masterpiece is undoubtedly *The Seasons*, and the Bacchanal from that is a wonderfully virile tune, eminently worthy of comparison with the best of Tchaikovsky. It's totally perverse of the ballet world, a perverse world anyway, to ignore a real ballet like this and instead to make a ballet out of Mahler's *Song of the Earth*.



Hindemith, Paul
Tony Palmer, film-maker

Unhesitatingly I would pick Hindemith's opera *Mathis der Maler*, the work he wrote in coded protest inside Hitler's Germany. It does the thing that is most important for every creative artist to do, and indeed what Gorecki does in the Third Symphony: stare unflinchingly straight into the dark heart of the human condition.



Ives, Charles
Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor

With Ives you have many different traditions of music-making intertwined simultaneously, but there is also a terribly nostalgic evocation of a lost world. Listen to the *Holidays Symphony*. Once, after I had conducted it, Liza Minnelli came backstage and said to me: "That piece is so beautiful and so sad!"



Janáček, Leos
Klaus Tennstedt, conductor

The Glagolitic Mass is an absolutely unbelievable piece, a choral masterpiece. You don't hear it as much as you should, because London audiences are always a little scared of works that they don't know so well. I also love Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen*. But that, I think, is an opera now well appreciated.



Karg-Elert, Sigfrid
Martin Neary, organist, Westminster Abbey

For something big, romantic and off the beaten track, may I recommend *Fuge, Canzona und Epilog* for organ by the early 20th-century German composer Karg-Elert. With the addition of a violin obbligato and treble voices in the final movement, this must be one of the grandest of all compositions for organ.



Ligeti, Gyorgy
Richard Watkins, principal horn, Philharmonia

The pieces which would belie Ligeti's reputation for being a difficult, avant-garde Hungarian composer are his six bagatelles for wind instruments: lovely, light, accessible music, very humorous and great fun for the players. His second wind quintet is very witty too, but much more difficult to play!



Milner, Anthony
John Anderson, principal oboe, Philharmonia

I played on the first and probably only recording of Milner's First Symphony, written in the early 1970s, and was very struck by it. It's a fantastic work, full of life and vigour, very well constructed and with plenty of memorable lyricism. In style you might say that it is a cross between Hindemith and Tippett.



Nicolai, Otto
Rodney Milnes, opera critic, The Times

Everyone knows Nicolai's *Merry Wives of Windsor*. But when will someone revive his *Il templario*? Based on *Ivanhoe*, it was a *succès fou* in Turin in 1840, despite the prima donna being named Marietta Spinach. It starts off in Donizettian mode but progresses to ensembles of great power. Wake up, someone.



Oliver, Stephen
Richard Suart, singer

I am sure that Stephen, who died last year, will never be forgotten, and nor will his music. He wrote so much wonderful stuff, so accessible and lively, and of course dozens of imaginative operas. I remember especially singing in a great little opera called *Exposition of a Picture*: appropriately enough, we staged it at the Royal Academy of Arts.



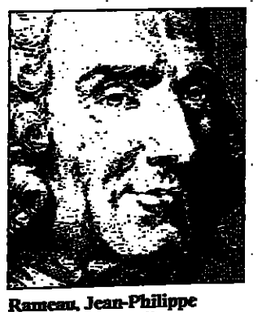
Purcell, Henry
Anthony Everitt, secretary-general, Arts Council

In *King Arthur* I would select the Pudding and Dumpling Song. Comus and three peasants rail against high taxation, and join in a chorus and dance not dissimilar to the signature tune of *The Archers*. The song topped the charts in the 1690s, and could do again in Purcell's tercentenary year, which is 1995.



Quilter, Roger
Benjamin Luxon, singer

He didn't have the scope of other 1920s song composers such as Peter Warlock, but some of his songs are absolute jewels: luscious, incredibly romantic and often tinged with sadness. Some are famous — his setting of "Now sleeps the crimson petal", for instance. But I suggest the less familiar Four Songs, Op 14: very atmospheric, well contrasted.



Rameau, Jean-Philippe
Tess Knighton, editor, Early Music

The French baroque composer Rameau is a potential chart-topper: melodious, and perhaps one of the most imaginative orchestrators ever. I recently saw a production of his opera *Les Indes Galantes* and I don't think anybody could resist the music of the final dance sequence, entitled "Les Sauvages".



Smyth, Dame Ethel
Graham Vick, opera producer

You cannot pretend that Dame Ethel's 1906 opera *The Wreckers* is a masterpiece. But it's got a lot more substance and energy than many other pieces which are now being revived. And it is a very powerful piece of theatre: a violent tragedy about the people who ransacked ships in 18th-century Cornwall.



Tchaikovsky, Alexander
Andrei Gavrilov, pianist

He's a beautiful composer, the great-great-great-nephew of Pyotr Ilyich. He is still quite a young man and getting well known in the States for his ballets and operas. I particularly love his viola concerto which he wrote for Yuri Bashmet, who plays it wonderfully. It's a stunning work, one of the finest from a living Russian composer.



Ustvolskaya, Galina
Reinbert de Leeuw, composer/conductor

Shostakovich admired her and her music, and now others are discovering her. In her music, a few notes convey a world of feeling: the intensity is enormous, and the context is Russian society rather than any musical traditions. Try her beautiful Violin Sonata, or the Octet for four violins, two oboes, piano and timpani.



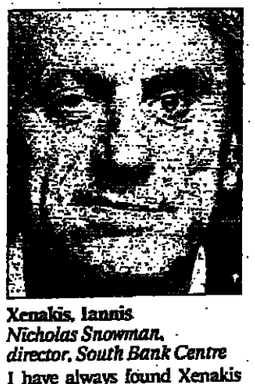
Vaughan Williams, Ralph
Raymond Gubbay, concert promoter

He must be the quintessential English composer. His *Sinfonia Antartica*, inspired by Captain Scott's expedition, seems bleak at first, but it is finally full of hope and inspiration for a better future. In fact, I think this is the work in which Vaughan Williams makes a particularly firm statement about his beliefs.



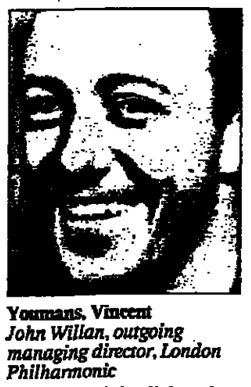
Wolf, Hugo
Franz Welser-Möst, conductor

The songs of Hugo Wolf are my choice, and in particular those in the Spanish Songbook. He had this crazy, wonderful ability, which he shared with Schubert and Schumann, to create his own miniature world in each of these songs. I only wish he had written more music for orchestra in his maturity.



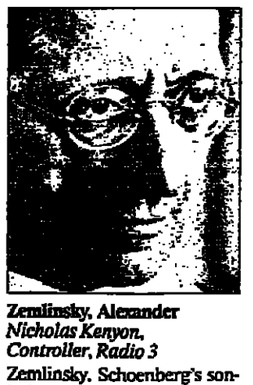
Xenakis, Iannis
Nicholas Snowman, director, South Bank Centre

I have always found Xenakis to be a fascinating and excitingly aggressive composer. For newcomers to his soundworld I particularly recommend *Eonta*, in which he makes the wind players move round the piano, and even to blow their instruments into the piano. It was pretty revolutionary for its day.



Youmans, Vincent
John Willan, outgoing managing director, London Philharmonic

One of the wittiest little orchestral pieces I know is Shostakovich's arrangement of Youmans's "Tea for Two". Apparently, Shostakovich heard the song on the radio, and made this delicious pastiche of 1920s style. It makes you want to hear all of Youmans's other songs.



Zemlinsky, Alexander
Nicholas Kenyon, Controller, Radio 3

Zemlinsky, Schoenberg's son-in-law, is exactly the sort of composer whose reputation Radio 3 could make again. His wonderful Second String Quartet, completed just before the first world war, balances luxurious romanticism with emerging 20th-century toughness. Not likely to be heard on Classic FM.

Hits and pieces

Henryk Gorecki's Third Symphony is still on top of the classical album charts this week, eight months after the record was released, *Richard Morrison writes*. What is more, the sudden fame for the man from Katowice has made other records of his music potential chart-toppers as well. His First and Second String Quartets, played by the Kronos Quartet, is up to No 5 in the charts. "Heaven knows what the punters make of these quartets," said a record company executive last week. "Gorecki changed his style utterly. The quartets are totally different from the meditative Third Symphony."

The only other albums of complete works in the Classical Top Ten are Nigel Kennedy's recording of Beethoven's Violin Concerto, hanging on at No 8, and Philip Glass's "Low" Symphony, which has shot up to No 4. But there are special reasons for this placing: the veteran American minimalist has based his symphony on old David Bowie songs, and may have pinched passing trade from the rock fans.

That the other six best-selling albums are all compilations — bits and pieces of famous tunes — must be a matter for modified rapture in the classical music world. Three of these albums are undisguised spin-offs from radio and television: Harry Enfield on Channel 4; Classic FM; and, most intriguingly, the Radio 1 disc-jockey Gary Davies, who mixes classical bits into his mainly pop programme. Such broadcasters are clearly reaching millions who would not normally listen to classical music, and who then go out and buy these compilation albums. What is far from clear is whether the newcomers can then be induced to become regular concert-goers, and to buy classical albums that do not simply extract the "famous bits".

There is certainly no boom in the concert halls. But is that because performing organisations have been slow in wooing this huge potential audience? One might have expected at least one of Britain's top orchestras to have made the effort to slip the ubiquitous Gorecki Third Symphony into a concert while it is still in the charts. So far, none has.

On the other hand the marketing of classical records has undergone a sea-change. The classical blockbusters of the last two or three years — the Pavarotti and Kennedy albums, the Gorecki, the "Essential" series — have sold in thousands *despite* the reaction of the music press, not because of it.

What is frustrating for music critics is not necessarily bad for music, of course. But if musical values are being pushed aside as well, and if the marketing men are allowed to decide everything, that would be a step backwards. The paradox is that, during the stereo boom of the 1960s and 1970s, the record companies recorded vast areas of repertoire — much of it obscure — for a comparatively small public. Now, with the classical audience bigger than ever, some famous labels are unwilling to risk heavy promotional costs on anything except the safest repertoire performed by the most glamorous names.

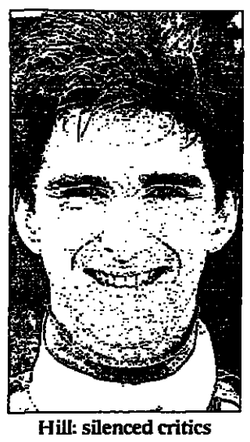
TOP 10 CLASSICAL ALBUMS

1	Gorecki: Symphony No 3	London Sinfonietta/David Zinman/Dawn Upshaw (Electra Nonesuch)
2	The Classic Experience IV	Various (EMI)
3	The Best of The Classical Bits — 18 Favourite Tracks from Gary Davies' Radio 1 Show	Various (Philips Classics)
4	"Low" Symphony	Philip Glass (Point Music)
5	Gorecki: String Quartets Nos 1 & 2	Kronos Quartet (Electra Nonesuch)
6	Harry Enfield's Guide to Opera	Various (EMI)
7	Essential Ballet	Various (Decca)
8	Beethoven Violin Concerto	Nigel Kennedy/Klaus Tennstedt (EMI)
9	The Sound of Classic FM	Various (EMI Classics)
10	The Classic Experience	Various (EMI)

March 27, 1993. Compiled by MRIB

Williams second string has sights set on Donington after promising second in Brazil

Hill displays maturity beyond his years


Hill: silenced critics

Oliver Holt in São Paulo reflects on the contrasting fortunes of two young drivers with hard acts to follow

THE weight of past glories lies heavily on Damon Hill's shoulders: world champions confront him at every turn. Son of the late former double world champion, Graham Hill, he is the Williams team's replacement for last year's runaway victor, Nigel Mansell, and teammate to Alain Prost, winner of a record 45 grands prix.

Hill started badly with a nervy performance in South Africa which ended prematurely when he was shunted off the track by the Lotus of Alessandro Zanardi, but at Interlagos on Sunday he silenced his critics with a drive which belied his inexperience and brought him second place behind the local hero, Ayrton Senna.

"Now I can go to Donington for the European grand prix with the intention of closing the gap on Alain," Hill said. "I'm sure this race has made me a couple of per cent better driver."

In the final laps he was outpaced by Senna's inferior McLaren on a fast circuit tailor-made for the Renault-powered Williams. Against that, though, he was unflappable in the face of the changing weather which claimed Prost on the thirtieth lap when he was leading. He outpaced Senna and Michael Schumacher in the few laps raced on wet tyres, finished second in only his fourth grand prix and saved face for his team.

"I was astonished," the team owner, Frank Williams, said. "I thought Senna and Schumacher would overwhelm Damon in the wet because of their greater exprience, but it was quite the opposite. He outpaced them and that was not down to horsepower — that was down to him."

Hill, 32, said in the post-race press conference that he had decided to settle for second place after Senna had passed him on the 42nd lap of the 71-lap race rather than risk not finishing. But later he admitted he was "disappointed and deflated" when he crossed the finish line.

"I have got mixed feelings about it," he said. "Obviously it is good to get some points on the board, but I am a racing driver and I want to win races. Something seemed to happen to the car with about 15 laps to go. I was tired, but there were problems with the gearbox, and it just lost its advantage."

Before the race was badly disrupted by the cloudburst that claimed Prost, Hill had already overtaken Senna on the eleventh lap. "You don't really have time to think about it," Hill said. "But something in the back of your mind is saying 'you just passed Senna in his home grand prix'."

Hill's improved fortunes contrast sharply with another famous name. McLaren's new recruit, Michael Andretti, son of the 1978 world champion, Mario Andretti, stalled on the grid in South Africa and managed only a few laps there before a crash ended his race.

On Sunday, he was involved in a crash with Gerhard Berger when the Sauber of J J Lehto sent him spinning into the barriers. He suffered only minor injuries, but his pride must be hurt. He was one of the most successful drivers in IndyCar racing before he vacated the berth at the Newman-Haas team that Mansell gratefully accepted. But he is struggling to make the transition to Formula One.

He qualified fifth on the grid here, but has been overshadowed by Senna since his late arrival at McLaren and will feel added pressure from the presence of the team's unemployed third driver, Mika Hakkinen.

Scifo poses chief danger to Wales

By Keith Pike

WHEN Barry Horne, the Wales captain, took the field at Anderlecht's Van Den Stock stadium in Brussels last November, he rated Vincenzo Scifo one of the two best midfield playmakers in the world. Ninety minutes later, having chased Scifo's shadow like a dog chases its tail, Horne's estimation of the Belgian's talents was undiminished.

In Cardiff tomorrow, Wales will again attempt to subdue one of the most destructive talents in European football when they take on Belgium at the National Stadium. Failure will almost certainly end their hopes of qualifying for the World Cup finals from group four. It was in the 1990 World Cup finals that Scifo, 27, at last fulfilled his promise, playing especially well for Belgium against England.

Belgium, with maximum points from six games, have as good as reserved their place in the United States already and the confidence of their manager, Paul Van Himst, was reflected yesterday when he named his team 48 hours early.

While Terry Yorath, his opposite number, was refusing to confirm the worst kept secret in Wales — that Ryan Giggs, the Manchester United winger, will start an international for the first time — Van Himst announced a side showing one change from the one that beat Cyprus 3-0 last month to stretch their lead over Romania to five points.

Necessity inspires Taylor's invention



David Miller in Izmir welcomes a tactical switch planned by the England manager against Turkey

The England manager has, it seems, been visited by a vision. Speaking yesterday of an English fixation with specialised roles in football, Graham Taylor stated: "What we forget to see is footballers." Those who see English football in serious danger of disappearing from the international front rank into the limbo of a second division alongside countries such as Paraguay would loudly add "hear, hear".

You could have bowled me over with a Turkish coffee. For some seasons, I have been banging on about the rigidity of England's formation, pleading for flexibility, for players who could play the game irrespective of position. And here was the England manager, more than 2½ years into the job, saying the same thing.

Moreover, he was talking specifically about that particular breed that is nowadays almost redundant — the full back. It has long been apparent to most international teams and managers that, with few opposing sides using a winger, it is prudent to have additional midfield players rather than conventional full backs.

Taylor was wishing to justify his decision to use Andy Sinton in the absence of the injured Stuart Pearce and Tony Dorigo. Necessity has proved the mother of invention. Sinton, who is distinguishable among England footballers by being one of those who is happy in company with the ball, will bring to the left side of midfield the footballing brain and touch that has been missing since the days of Brooking three World Cups ago.

Taylor added that it was important to utilise squad players in situations of adversity. This is obvious. It is better to use a versatile player than to promote a club man wearing the right label: though why, therefore, did Taylor summon Warhurst — subsequently withdrawn by Sheffield Wednesday — as an international centre forward when he is merely a converted club defender? To some, that smacked of panic.

Sinton may have to defend if Turkey use a wide midfield player, but that responsibility, as Taylor remarked, will be no more than fulfilling Sinton's normal role about 25 yards further back. What Sinton can unquestionably provide is intelligence when moving forward in possession.

Any team who are to prosper must have ability on the ball at the back. An England back four of Dixon, Adams, Walker and Pearce conspicuously lacks this. We may moan about the absence of a goalscorer to replace Lineker — the injury to Shearer could be as critical to England as to Blackburn — but the quality of openings being created must be taken into account. Without the passing ability of Gascoigne — and occasionally this season the maturing Ince — from where will this come?

That leads to another basic principle. There are 15 months to the World Cup finals. If England qualify, which is less than a certainty, regular goals will only come from attackers who have been in the side some while. I know Geoff Hurst was a late inclusion in 1966, but a goalscorer, like an opening bat, cannot have presence of mind if he is playing for his place.

In the next few matches, Taylor has to make up his mind whom he regards as the best partner for Shearer and stick with him. Whether it is Wright we may have a better idea tomorrow. The impression is that, for all his quicksilver skill on the ball, Wright may not have the temperament for the big occasion.


Sinton: control


Mudlarks: Wright and Gascoigne come up smiling after an impromptu wrestle during training for tomorrow's World Cup match against Turkey at Izmir

IN BRIEF

Palmer sees his future as senior

PAUL Palmer, 19, has sent a clear message to the English swimming selectors that he intends to compete as a senior in future by declining a place on the national youth team bound for the six nations' tournament in Mulhouse, France, over the Easter weekend (Craig Lord writes).

Instead, he will head north to the sixth Edinburgh International to race Evgeni Sadovyi, the Russian who is Olympic champion at 200 and 400 metres freestyle and whom Palmer almost beat at 400 metres when he set the British short-course record at the world cup in Malmö last month. Martin Carl, Britain's leading sprinter, has also declined selection for the French meeting.

Comeback spurs crushing win

Bowls: Mary Price and her partner, Ann Erridge, from the Desborough club, Maidenhead, came back to beat Tilbury after being 14-4 in arrears to win a place in the quarter-finals of the EWIBA pairs championship at Stevenage yesterday, before crushing King George Field by the remarkable margin of 37-7 in 18 ends.

Light blue win

Modern Pentathlon: A performance of international quality by Oxford's Keith Shindler, who scored 5,360 points, failed to stop Cambridge winning the University match at Eton College.

Budapest date

Tennis: Britain will play Hungary in Budapest on April 30-May 2 as they start an attempt to regain a place in the world group of the Davis Cup. The Hungarians beat Finland 4-1 to qualify for the tie.

RFU cuts prices

Rugby union: The Rugby Union has taken £10 million for its debenture scheme for the new East Stand at Twickenham. The plan is now being refined from a ten-year debenture to a five-year option. The ten-year debenture is priced at £2,100 and the new five-year deal costs £1,250.

Date for Nelson

Boxing: Johnny Nelson, the former British and European cruiserweight champion, will challenge Dave Russell, of Australia, for the World Boxing Federation title in Melbourne on April 30.

FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

PARIS: French open championships: Men's singles: Final: Hendrawan (Indo) bt S Nielsen (Den), 15-10, 14-18, 15-11. Women's singles: Final: Yao Yan (China) bt Ye Zhaoying (China), 11-7, 5-11, 11-5.

BOWLS

MELTON MOWBRAY: Manchester Unity English men's national indoor championship: Fours: Semi-finals: Cambridge Park St Barking 21-12, Plymouth Civil Service bt Cosmos Dunbar 21-19. Triples: First round: Plymouth Civil Service bt King James, 16-15; Worthing bt British Cellophane, 16-13; Leicester bt March, 21-15; Hatfield bt Old Coulsdon, 16-12, Desborough bt Grettons, 20-16; Hull and District bt Thamesdown, 18-10; Teignbridge bt East Dorset 24-13. Rugby Thornfield bt County Arts, 20-12. Sunderland bt Wey Valley, 38-10. Paddington bt Slade, 22-12, Tilbury bt Perdiswell, 20-7; Addlethorpe bt Ipswich, 19-5; Oyster bt St Neots, 22-11; Cosmos Dunbar bt Sudbury, 19-18, Nottingham bt Kettering 23-13, Wymondham Dell bt Newcastle, 15-14.

STEVENAGE: English women's indoor national championship: Pairs: M Hazell and B Kung (Solent) bt K Mills and A O'Donnell (Wealden), 26-10; D Wilson and J Cammack (Boston) bt E Vigor and T Barton (Croydon), 19-11, M Moore and S Curtis (Beccles) bt D Thompson and G Lloyd (Malvern), 23-10, H Cattran and M Matthews (West Cornwall) bt A Grant and B Hurst (Pickett's Lock), 23-15; J Coulson and H Walker (York) bt J Wilson and D Gowling (Cumbria), 24-15, J Smith and A Snelling (Folkestone) bt M Taylor and E Bessell (Yeovil), 15-10; L Thorogood and M Wesser (King George Field) bt M Manell and J Liversedge (March), 24-21, A Emdge and M Price (Desborough, Maidenhead) bt J Barnes and K Coles (Tilbury), 26-23.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Phoenix Suns 110, Philadelphia 76ers 100, Portland Trail Blazers 121, Charlotte Hornets 114; Boston Celtics 114, Washington Bullets 113; Detroit Pistons 91, Cleveland Cavaliers 78; Minnesota Timberwolves 101, Houston Rockets 100, New York Knicks 94, Golden State Warriors 84, San Antonio Spurs 114, Dallas Mavericks 107.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic division	W	L	Pct	GB
* New York Knicks	47	20	701	—
Boston Celtics	40	28	588	7½
New Jersey Nets	40	29	580	8
Orlando Magic	32	34	485	14½
Miami Heat	30	37	448	17
Philadelphia 76ers	21	46	313	26
Washington Bullets	13	48	284	28
Central division				
* Chicago Bulls	48	20	706	—
Cleveland Cavaliers	43	25	632	5
Atlanta Hawks	36	32	529	12
Charlotte Hornets	35	34	507	13½
Indiana Pacers	33	35	485	15
Detroit Pistons	31	36	463	16½
Milwaukee Bucks	26	42	382	22
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest division				
* Houston Rockets	44	25	638	—
San Antonio Spurs	42	25	627	1
Utah Jazz	40	29	580	4
Denver Nuggets	28	40	412	15½
Minnesota Timberwolves	16	51	239	27
Dallas Mavericks	7	61	103	36½
Pacific division				
* Phoenix Suns	52	15	776	—
* Seattle SuperSonics	47	22	681	6
Portland Trail Blazers	41	25	621	10½
Los Angeles Lakers	34	33	507	18
Los Angeles Clippers	33	36	478	20
Golden State Warriors	28	40	412	24½
Sacramento Kings	21	46	313	31

*clinched play-off berth.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Final: Fourth day: Queensland 311 and 75 (M Holdsworth 7-41), New South Wales 341 (G Matthews 78, M Slater 69) and 9 for 1.

CYCLING

AVIGNON, France: Criterium international: 1, E Breukink (Hol), 7hr 12min 41sec; 2, T Rominger (Swit), at 13sec; 3, A Golden (Swit) at 15; 4, F Jekier (Swit), at 48; 5, P Richard (Swit), at 50; 6, P Lance (Fr), at 1min 13sec.

ROAD RACES: La Zouch Spring Classic (Heather, Leicestershire, 86 miles): S McWay (Stars and Stripes), 3hr 31min 15sec; 2, Romford-Harlow (89 miles): A Lyas (Cymrca Sport), 3.21.15; 3, Catford CC (Edenbridge, Kent, 60 miles): P Rogers (St Raphael), 2.24.43; Central Lancashire RC (Oakenclough, 51 miles): N Smith (Douglas Valley), 2.22.38.

TIME-TRIALS: Circuit of Ingleborough (27 miles): G Burton (Kaual), 1hr 02min 16sec. Team: Cleveleys, 3.24.03; Royal Dean Forest CC (22 miles): J Jones (JPM Racing), 1hr 19.31. Team: JPM Racing, 5.29.54; Ely and District CC (50 miles): I Cammish (Cymrar-Maxon), 1hr 12.38; Southwell CC (twelve, 50m): D Sayers and J Richardson (Raleigh), 1.13.46; Hemel Hempstead CC (fifty, 25.6 miles): L Pickstock), 1.24.13. Team: RAF, 3.20.29; Southern Counties CU Sporting (25 miles): N McCormick (Selle Vigo CC), 1.02.27. Team: Bognor Regis, 3.21.14; De Montfort BC (Leicester, 25 miles): D Webster (Leicestershire), 1.03.35. Team: De Montfort, 3.13.51; Mid-Oxon CRT (25 miles): S Dangerfield (Lec), 51min 11sec. Salisbury RC (25 miles): C Brooks (Camberwell), 53.52. Team: Salisbury, 3hr 00min 28sec; Barnsley RC (25 miles): S Frankish (Scunthorpe Velocity), 55min 03sec. Team: Chesterfield, 2hr 56min 13sec; Team Mirage (North Humberside, fifty, 25 miles): T McKenna (Middlesbrough), 58min 27sec. Team: Hull Thursday, 3hr 14min 09sec; Cleveleys RC (25 miles): T Schools (Team Rapide), 55min 13sec. Team: Rapide, 2hr 53min 07sec; Boston Wheelers (two-up, 25 miles): J French and T Chapman (Bad), 54min 01sec. Clevedon and District RC (two-up, 25 miles): A Lyons and L Dinham (Plymouth Corinthian), 57.34. Sunderland Clarion (25 miles): H Walker (Metro), 1hr 00min 01sec. Team: Metro, 3.07.51; Halifax Imperial Wheelers Mountain (27.2 miles): C Giles (Huddersfield), 1.12.15. Team: Huddersfield, 3.51.55; Wolverhampton Wheelers (hilly, 22.5 miles): B Charley (Stourbridge), 50min 19sec. Gala CC (Borders, 20.5 miles): B Scott (Delta), 53.54. Team: Penicuik, 2hr 49min 15sec. Crewe Clarion Wheelers (hilly, 17 miles): A Hilton (Leigh Premier), 35min 48sec. Team: Crewe Clarion, 2hr 02min 56sec. Cardiff Ajax CC (10 miles): L Bond (Cardiff Ajax), 23min 39sec. Team: Ogmore Valley, 1hr 15min 19sec.

FENCING

BATH: British sabre championships: Men: 1, A Zahir (Salle Paul); 2, K Zaveh (Salle Paul); 3, P Hoenigmann (Bellahouston) and S Lawrence (Bellahouston).

FOOTBALL

DUTCH LEAGUE: Groningen 0, PSV Eindhoven 1, Twente Enschede 5, Sparta Rotterdam 0, Utrecht 1, Dordrecht '90 1, Wesse Arnhem 2, Ajax 2, Feyenoord 3, Roda JC Kerkrade 0, Willem II Tilburg 1, Volendam 3, Den Bosch 3, Cambuur Leeuwarden 2, MVV Maastricht 1, RKC Waalwijk 1, Fortuna Sittard 3, Go Ahead Eagles Deventer 1. Leading positions: 1, Rotterdam, played 26, 40pts; 2, PSV Eindhoven, 25, 39; 3, Ajax, 25, 37.

GERMAN LEAGUE: Kaiserslautern 1, Saarbrücken 1, Eintracht Frankfurt 1, Bayer Leverkusen 1, Borussia Mönchengladbach 3, Dynamo Dresden 3, Borussia Dortmund 0, Karlsruhe 1, Bayer Leverkusen 1, Cologne 3, Wattenscheid 0; Schalke 1, VfB Stuttgart 0.

GOLF

SONY WORLD RANKINGS: 1, N Faldo (GB), 24.53pts; 2, F Couples (US), 15.33; 3, N Price (Zim), 14.19; 4, G Norman (Aus), 14.14; 5, B Langer (Ger), 13.89; 6, I Woosnam (GB), 12.20; 7, T Kite (US), 12.08; 8, J M Olazabal (Sp), 11.84; 9, D Love (US), 10.93; 10, P Azinger (US), 10.90.

EUROPEAN RYDER CUP POINTS: 1, B Lane, 256,241.46pts; 2, C Montgomerie, 236,826.35; 3, N Faldo, 233,527.50; 4, M James, 193,379.08; 5, J Spence, 183,025.15; 6, A Lyle, 172,109.01; 7, D Gilford, 167,080.93; 8, B Langer (Ger), 164,751.48; 9, M-A Jiménez (Sp), 161,676.18; 10, S Richardson, 157,916.41; 11, J Payne, 146,118.51; 12, M Roe, 143,612.91; 13, R Karlsson (Swe), 114,657.50; 14, D Feherty, 112,955.00; 15, A Forsbrand (Swe), 103,646.04.

EUROPEAN TOUR: Leading money-winners (GB unless stated): 1, D Gilford, £137,167; 2, M James, £119,956; 3, F Nobilo (NZ), £97,982; 4, W Westner (SA), £95,140; 5, N Faldo, £95,325; 6.

GYMNASTICS

GLOUCESTER: British schools team championships: Seniors: Boys: equal 1, Newcastle GS and All Hallows, Shepton Mallet, 98.05pts; 3, John Penrose, London 79.55. Girls: 1, Morton CS, Carlisle, 113.55; 2, Marist Convent, Ascot, 112.2; 3, Spalding HS 108.7.

HOCKEY

CORK: Four nations tournament: Under-18: Wales 2, England 6; Ireland 7, Scotland 0; Scotland 1, Wales 2; Ireland 0, England 0. Final positions: 1, Ireland, 5pts; 2, England, 5; 3, Wales, 2; 4, Scotland, 0. Under-16: Wales 0, England 8; Ireland 3, Scotland 0; Scotland 1 Wales 0; Ireland 2, England 2. Final positions: 1, England, 5pts; 2, Ireland, 5; 3, Scotland, 2; 4, Wales, 0.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Milton Abbey 2, King's, Bruton 4; Old Mid-Whitgiftians 2, Trinity 1; Sir Roger Manwood 1, Old Manovians 0.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Pittsburgh Penguins 4, Washington Capitals 1; Los Angeles Kings 3, Winnipeg Jets 3 (OT); Buffalo Sabres 3, Ottawa Senators 1; Quebec Nordiques 3, New York Rangers 2; Toronto Maple Leafs 4, Calgary Flames 0; Chicago Blackhawks 3, Hartford Whalers 0.

EINDHOVEN: World championship: Pool B: Great Britain 5 (K Conway 2, S Momsen, D McEwen, T Hand), Japan 4.

ICE HOCKEY

WALES CONFERENCE — Patrick division	W	L	D	Pts
Pittsburgh Penguins	49	21	6	104
Washington Capitals	36	30	7	83
New Jersey Devils	37	32	6	80
New York Rangers	33	31	11	77
New York Islanders	35	33	6	76
Philadelphia Flyers	28	35	11	67
Adams division				
* Montreal Canadiens	46	25	6	98
* Boston Bruins	43	26	7	93
* Quebec Nordiques	42	24	10	94
* Buffalo Sabres	37	28	10	84
Hartford Whalers	22	47	5	49
Ottawa Senators	9	62	4	22
CAMPBELL CONFERENCE — Norris division				
Chicago Blackhawks	42	24	10	94
* Detroit Red Wings	42	27	9	93
* Toronto Maple Leafs	41	25	10	92
St Louis Blues	35	32	9	79
Minnesota North Stars	33	33	10	76
Tampa Bay Lightning	22	48	5	49
Smythe division				
* Vancouver Canucks	33	27	9	87
* Calgary Flames	37	28	10	84
* Los Angeles Kings	35	33	8	78
* Winnipeg Jets	34	35	7	75
Edmonton Oilers	25	44	6	56
San Jose Sharks	10	64	2	22

* clinched play-off place

LACROSSE

COBHAM, Surrey: All England clubs and colleges tournament: Semi-finals: Centaurs 4, Pendley 3; Banbury 2, Beckenham Beetles 1. Final: Centaurs 5, Banbury 0.

MODERN PENTATHLON

ETON COLLEGE: University match: Men: 1, K Shindler (Oxford), 5,360pts; 2, R Smale (Cambridge); 3, E Egan (Oxford). Teams: Cambridge 27,857, Oxford 24,313. Women: 1, J Allen (Cambridge), 5,093; 2, C Holmes (Oxford); 3, K Gill (Cambridge). Teams: Cambridge 22,154, Oxford 20,201.

MOTOR SPORT

SILVERSTONE: British touring car championship: First round: 1, S Soper (BMW 318i), 25 laps in 26min 37.10sec (92.92mph); 2, J Winkelhock (BMW 318i), 26:37.34; 3, J Cleland (Vauxhall Cavalier), 26:42.42.

SNOOKER

GOFFS, Co. Kildare: Benson and Hedges Irish Masters: Final: S Davis (Eng) bt A McManus (Scot), 9-4.

SPEEDWAY

BARCLAYS BANK CUP: Second leg: Newcastle 54, Middlesbrough 53 (agg: 97-118).

SQUASH

BROMLEY: British squash players' championship: Final: P Marshall (Leics) bt C Walker (Essex), 15-7, 7-15, 15-8, 15-6.

TENNIS

DAVIS CUP: American zone: Peru bt Paraguay, 5-0; Argentina bt Mexico, 4-1; Chile bt Canada, 3-1 (final singles not played); Bahamas bt Uruguay, 4-1; Colombia bt Dominican Republic, 4-1; Venezuela bt Haiti, 3-2; Puerto Rico bt Ecuador, 3-2. Asia-Oceania zone: Indonesia bt Philippines, 3-2.

OSAKA, Japan: Salem hardcourt open tournament: Doubles: First round: J Bates (GB) and S Stolle (Aus) bt A O'Brien and J Start (US), 9-2, 6-4.

HOUSTON, Texas: Women's tournament: Final: C Martinez (Sp) bt S Hack (Ger), 6-3, 6-2.

SOCCER

FA CUP — SEMI-FINALS
Not on coupons: Arsenal v Tottenham (Sunday, at Wembley); Sheffield United v Sheffield Wednesday (at Wembley)
PREMIER LEAGUE
1 Chelsea v Middlesbrough
X Coventry v Southampton
1 C Palace v QPR
1 Man City v Ipswich
1 Oldham v Wimbledon
Not on coupons: Blackburn v Liverpool; Norwich v Manchester United (Monday); Nottingham Forest v Aston Villa (Sunday)
FIRST DIVISION
X Birmingham v West Ham
X Bristol R v Leicester
2 Cambridge U v Newcastle
1 Charlton v Barnsley
2 Grimsby v Wolves
1 Millwall v Portsmouth
1 Notts Co v Bristol C
2 Oxford v Brentford
1 Sunderland v Southend
1 Swindon v Peterborough
2 Watford v Luton
Not on coupons: Tranmere v Derby (Friday)
SECOND DIVISION
1 Blackpool v Plymouth
1 Bournm'th v Chester
1 Burnley v Hartlepool
X Exeter v Bradford
2 Mansfield v Bolton
1 Port Vale v Reading
1 Rotherham v Leyton O
X Stockport v Stoke
1 Swansea v Preston
1 West Brom v Brighton
X Wigan v Hull
Not on coupons: Fulham v Huddersfield (Friday)
THIRD DIVISION
1 Barnet v Halifax
1 Bury v Scunthorpe
X Chesterfield v Walsall
2 Scarborough v Cardiff
1 Shrewsbury v Carlisle
Not on coupons: Crewe v Hereford, Gillingham v York, Northampton v Rochdale (all Friday), Torquay v Lincoln, Wrexham v Darlington (Friday)
BEAZER HOMES LGE
2 Atherstone v Cheltenham
1 Burton v Solihull
1 Chelmsford v Bashley
2 Dorchester v Camb'ge C
1 Dover v Worcester
X Halesowen v Gloucester
1 Hednesford v Hastings
DIADORA LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION
1 Aylesbury v Wivenhoe
1 Bas gstoke v Wokingh'm
X Corshalton v St Albans
1 Enfield v Staines
SCOTTISH CUP SEMI-FINALS
1 Rangers v Hearts
Not on coupons: Aberdeen v Hibernian
SCOTTISH PREMIER
X Dundee v Partick
2 Falkirk v Dundee Utd
Not on coupons: Motherwell v Celtic
SCOTTISH FIRST
1 Dumbarton v Cowdenbth
1 Dunf'mline v Stirling
1 Hamilton v Raith
2 Morton v Ayr
1 St Mirren v Meadowbk
Not on coupons: Kilmarnock v Clydebank
SCOTTISH SECOND
2 Albion v East Fife
1 Alloa v Arbroath
X Berwick v Brechin
2 E Stirling v Queen's Pk
X Montrose v Q of Sth
2 Stenh'muir v Clyde
1 Stranraer v Forfar

TREBLE CHANCE (home teams): Coventry, Birmingham, Bristol Rovers, Exeter, Stockport, Wigan, Chesterfield, Halesowen, Gateshead, Dundee, Berwick, Montrose.
BEST DRAWS: Coventry, Birmingham, Bristol Rovers, Stockport, Chesterfield.
AWAYS: Newcastle, Luton, Bolton, Cardiff, Cambridge City.
HOMES: Chelsea, Manchester City, Charlton, Sunderland, Blackpool, Barnet, Shrewsbury, Dover, Aylesbury, Basingstoke, Dumbarton, St Mirren.
FIXED ODDS: Homes: Chelsea, Manchester City, Barnet, Dover, Aylesbury. Aways: Newcastle, Bolton, Clyde. Draws: Birmingham, Bristol Rovers, Stockport.

☐ Vince Wright

POOLS FORECAST

BIRMINGHAM City's 2-2 away draw against the first division leaders, Newcastle United, was one of the best results of the weekend. This Saturday they can help Newcastle by holding West Ham United, who are second, at St Andrew's. Birmingham are making an impressive attempt to avoid relegation, whereas West Ham are faltering in their quest for promotion.

It may seem silly to back against Leicester City at the moment. They have after all won seven games in a row to climb to fifth but their opponents on Saturday, the bottom club, Bristol Rovers, desperately need points to avoid going down. I have a hunch they will end Leicester's sequence by forcing a draw at Twerton Park.

Stoke City, the second division leaders, lost at home in the league for the first time this season on Saturday but can bounce straight back by obtaining a point at Stockport County.

In the third division, Walsall, without an away draw all season, have a great opportunity to break their duck at Chesterfield.

The Premier League fixture between mid-table teams, Coventry City and Southampton, has the look of stalemate.

Saturday April 3 unless stated

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated

European under-21 championship

Group two

Turkey v England (at Alsancak Stadium, Izmir, 12.30)

Group Four

Wales v Belgium (at Ninian Park, Cardiff)

Under-18 international

England v Denmark (at Stoke City FC)

Barclays League

Second division

Bolton v Rotherham
Plymouth v Huddersfield (7.45)

Third division

Bury v Shrewsbury
Scarborough v Barnet
Scunthorpe v Northampton

GM Vauxhall Conference

Macclesfield v Kidderminster
Merthyr v Altrincham
Stafford v Witton
Woking v Telford (7.45)
Wycombe v Boston (7.45)
Yeovil v Farnborough (7.45)

Scottish League

Premier division

Rangers v Aberdeen

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury v Basingstoke, Kingstonian v Stevenage Borough, Nottingham v Marlow. First division: Abingdon Town v Aveley, Whyteleafe v Leyton. Second division: Banstead v Tuberley, Hampton v Leatherhead, Witham v Metropolitan Police. Third division: Epsom and Ewell v Collier Row, Hertford v Clapton.

HFS LOANS LEAGUE: Premier division: Barrow v Horwich, Prestwood v Marine, Leek v Whitby, Bay Mondcambe v Emley.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bashley v Corby Town, Halesowen v Dover (7.45); Hastings v Cheltenham, VS Rugby v Waterlooville. Midland division: Gresley v Bilston, Leicester v Rushden and Diamonds, RC Warwick v Bedworth, Redditch v Forest Green; Stourbridge v Weston-super-Mare. Southern division: Baldock v Erith and Belvedere; Newport IoW v Poole, Witney v Canterbury.

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Briton Ferry v Cwmbran; Caersws v Bangor; Connah's Quay v Newtown.

PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: Barnsley v Stoke (7.0). Liverpool v Sheff Wed (7.0), Sheff Utd v Man City. Second division: Bradford v Coventry (7.0); Derby v Middlesbrough (7.0); Preston v Wigan (7.0).

NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: First division: Arsenal v Norwich (2.30); QPR v Wimbledon (2.0), Watford v Oxford; West Ham v Swindon (2.0).

JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Gorleston v Diss; Harwich and Parkeston v Tiptree, Haverhill v March Town, Norwich United v Cornard, Watton v Lowestoft; Wroxham v Chatteris.

HFS LOANS LEAGUE: First division: Bridlington v Eastwood; Farsley Celtic v Curzon Ashton.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: President's Cup: Final: Maltby MW v Brigg. Premier division: Pickering v Spennymoor, Stocksbridge PS v Ossett Albion.

BASS NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton LR v Blackpool St Helens v Prescot.

RUGBY UNION

Heineken National League

Second division

Aberillery v Blaina (7.0)

Club match

Cross Keys v HM Prison Service (7.0)

OTHER SPORT

BOWLS: English men's championships (Melton Mowbray); English women's championships (Stevenage).

BOXING: European flyweight championship, Robbie Regan (Blackwood) v Danny Porter (Hitchin) (Cardiff).

LACROSSE: England v United States All-Stars (Ewan Fields, Hyde, 7.0).

WORD WITH ME

Answers from page 40

STORTHING

(c) The Norwegian parliament, from the Norwegian *stor-great + ting* thing: "If a bill is passed unchanged by three successive Storthings, it becomes law without the royal sanction."

LAMBEG

(c) One of the large drums traditionally beaten in Ulster and other Orange parts, to rally the tribe and terrify the opposition, from the name of a village near Belfast where the practice started. A *lambegger* is somebody who beats such a drum. "Nothing in the world is quite like a Lambeg band. The combination is usually composed of four or six gigantic drums."

CLITIC

(b) An enclitic or proclitic word, ie a monosyllabic word or form that is treated as a suffix of the preceding or prefix of the subsequent word, from the Greek *klinein* to lean: "Many words with which they do not form morphological constructions. The word *is* occurs as *iz* in the following types of clitic forms: *Bess's going.*"

RELIGIEUSE

(c) A weight-watching-challenging pastry made of a mound of éclairs, stuck together with whipped cream and toffee glue, one ressemblance to a nun: "A Religieuse is a gorgeously opulent edifice of éclairs bound with a mortar of chocolate and cream."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

No! Black can force mate with 1 ... Qd1+! 2 Kf4 (2 Kg3 Qg4 mate) 2 ... Qg4+ 3 Ke5 Qe6+ 4 Kf4 Qe4+ and 5 ... Qg4 mate.

Dunwoody determined to lift title

By Alan Lee

RICHARD Dunwoody's passionate pursuit of the jump jockeys' championship permits him no time for idle self-pity and he returns to action at Sandown Park today despite continuing discomfort from a broken bone in his hand.

This is the week when most riders focus exclusively on Aintree, caution the watchword of their countdown. But for Dunwoody, every day out of the saddle is cause for anxiety. Peter Scudamore, the reigning champion, was 20 winners adrift a fortnight ago, but the deficit is down to 14 as the title duel enters its final two months.

"I can't put the championship out of my mind, this week or any other week," said Dunwoody yesterday. "It means too much to me for that. It is so important to keep riding winners and I did not enjoy missing four or five at Newbury last weekend."

So, a week after reluctantly conceding to the injury sustained at Uttoxeter three days earlier, Dunwoody plans to resume the quest for his first championship with three attractive rides today on a decimated Sandown card.

The four steeplechases open to professional jockeys have each attracted only five runners and Dunwoody rides Amari King, for his former employer Tim Forster, and Musthaveaswig and Shamana for his current governor, David Nicholson. Scudamore is at the meeting for only one ride, Clay County, trained by Dick Allan.

Dunwoody, named on Sunday as Jump Jockey of the Year, visited his physiotherapist, Mary Bromiley, yesterday before riding out near his Wantage home. "The hand is still swollen and I would like more of the bruising to come out," he said. "I won't be free of pain but I am confident of doing myself justice."

Even Dunwoody cannot entirely deflect his thoughts from Saturday's Grand National, in which he rides Wont Be Gone Long for Nick Henderson. "He has already won the John Hughes round Aintree and is an ideal ride," Dunwoody explained. "I haven't sat on him for a while, but I hope to do so before going up to Liverpool on Thursday."

Scudamore's National ride remained undecided yesterday, as Martin Pipe declared seven horses among the 47 five-day acceptors, in which a notable absentee was Gordon Richards's experienced grey, Four Trix.

The champion's likeliest mounts are Chatam or Riverside Boy, both trained by Pipe.

Corals yesterday reported heavy interest in Nigel Twiston-Davies's Captain Dibble and cut him from 12-1 to 8-1 second favourite, easing the Jenny Pitman-trained favourite, Royal Athlete, a point out to 7-1.

Mark Pitman, the trainer's son, has yet to decide whether to ride Royal Athlete, third in the Cheltenham Gold Cup, or to remain faithful to Garrison Savannah, who has already finished second in one Aintree National and is now as short as 14-1 with Ladbrokes.

The best-backed outsider yesterday was Mister Ed, 200-1 before winning the Midlands Grand National ten days ago but now down to 40-1, while interest at Ladbrokes centred on Adrian Maguire's mount, Romany King. Last year's runner-up was laid to lose £50,000 at 12-1 and is now 10-1. His trainer, Toby Balding, was one of many delighted to hear that heavy rain had arrived to ease the threatened firm going on the National course.

GEORGE SELWYN



Vote of confidence: Captain Dibble was the subject of substantial support yesterday for the National

NATIONAL ACCEPTORS

Quirinus (trained by K Morgan) 11yrs 11st 10lb, Garrison Savannah (Mrs J Pitman) 10-11-8, Chatam (M Pipe) 9-11-7, Party Politics (N Gaselee) 9-11-2, Cahervillahow (M Morris) 9-10-11, Captain Dibble (N Twiston-Davies) 8-10-8, Romany King (G Balding) 9-10-7, Royal Athlete (Mrs J Pitman) 10-10-4, Zeta's Lad (J Upson) 10-10-4, Joyful Noise (A Jarvis) 10-10-1, Laura's Beau (F Berry) 9-10-0, Roc De Prince (T Walsh) 10-10-0.

Riverside Boy (M Pipe) 10-9-13, Bonanza Boy (M Pipe) 12-9-13, Sure Metal (D McCain) 10-9-12, The Committee (H Scott) 10-9-11, Willsford (Mrs J Pitman) 10-9-8, The Gooser (P Mullins) 10-9-7, Latent Talent (S Sherwood) 9-9-7, Rowlandsons Jewels (D Murray Smith) 12-9-7, Kildimo (Mrs S Smith) 13-9-5, New Mill House (A Moore) 10-9-4, Howe Street (H Johnson) 10-9-3, David's Duky (A Reid) 11-9-3, Wont Be Gone Long (N Henderson) 11-9-1, Esha Ness (Mrs J Pitman) 10-9-1, Just So (H Cole) 10-9-1, On The Other Hand (G Richards) 10-9-0, Travel Over (R Lee) 12-9-0, Givus A Buck (D Elsworth) 10-8-13, Nos Na Gaoithe (M H Easterby) 10-8-12, Stay On Tracks (P Cheesbrough) 11-8-12, Paco's Boy (M Pipe) 8-8-11, Formula One (J Edwards) 11-8-7, Senator Snugfit (M W Easterby) 8-8-5, Skipping Tim (M Pipe) 14-8-2.

Mister Ed (R Curtis) 10-8-1, Targogan's Best (B Lunness) 13-8-1, Trusty Friend (J Edwards) 11-8-1, Farm Week (G Balding) 11-8-0, Interim Lib (Mrs S Bradburne) 10-8-0, Direct (J Edwards) 10-8-0, Royle Speedmaster (O Sherwood) 9-7-12, False Economy (J Edwards) 8-7-12, Obie's Train (M Pipe) 7-7-11, Smooth Escort (Mrs D Haine) 9-7-11, Simah Jay (G Balding) 13-7-10.

Sting in tail with Carroll's double

GREY horses ruled the roost at Hamilton Park yesterday, capturing the first four races. Two of them, Palacegate Sunset and Charity Express, were trained by Jack Berry, who has made his customary flying start to the turf campaign.

But for his stable jockey John Carroll, rider of the Berry pair, there was a sting in the tail when he collected a four-day ban for improper riding on 13-8 favourite Palacegate Sunset.

Successful by a neck from the 33-1 chance Friendly Knight in the Chatelherault Claiming Stakes, Carroll was found guilty of using his whip excessively.

He said: "My horse was off the bridle five furlongs out, and the others had gone a length and a half up on me. I hit my mount 18 times altogether in the last half-mile, but, if I hadn't used the whip, Palacegate Sunset would not have won.

"It's as simple as that, but under the rules the stewards were right to ban me. Unfortunately the suspension means I will miss a listed race (the Field Marshal Stakes) at Haydock on Easter Saturday."

Carroll's ban takes effect from April 7 to 10 inclusive and, although disappointed to lose the services of his stable jockey for that period, Berry reflected: "John knows the rules. He broke them, and will take his punishment like a man."

The Cockerham trainer, also on target at Folkestone with Sabre Rattler, attributed Palacegate Sunset's victory to the soft ground. The gelding's only previous win had been achieved over the course last September.

Berry's double was completed by Charity Express, carrying his own colours, in the Bothwell Road Claiming Stakes.

Two other grey geldings, Shannon Express and Tanagome, emerged triumphant in close finishes. The former gave Preston trainer Eric Alston his first success of the new season.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: FIELD OF STARS
(2.00 Leicester)
Next best: Shamana
(4.25 Sandown)

Live evening racing

SKY Sports, making its initial entry into racing, becomes the first British television company to screen evening meetings, under an agreement signed yesterday.

Starting on May 20, Sky Sports will broadcast in conjunction with Satellite Information Services (SIS) two live meetings an evening, twice a week, with a programme of seven races. The first programme will feature four races from Uttoxeter and three from Perth.

David Pipe, director of public affairs for the Jockey Club, said: "We are delighted that Sky Television has decided to screen evening racing. Apart from the benefit to viewers, it will be a significant factor in obtaining racecourse sponsorship."

☐ Gary Moore celebrated his first success as a trainer at Folkestone yesterday. Moore, son of the Brighton trainer Charlie, has 30 horses at Ermyn Lodge Stables in Epsom and his second runner, Mr Nevermind, despite steering an erratic course, won the Levy Board Handicap.

Inquiry to follow British failure

From David Powell
Athletics Correspondent
in Amorebieta, Spain

AFTER leaving here yesterday as Britain's highest-placed finisher from the four races at the world cross country championships, Liz McColgan now turns her attention to the NutraSweet London Marathon on April 18. She is in good heart for what might prove the best race of the year in Britain.

Here, she expected to lose: in London, she expects to win, though the opposition is outstanding. Her performance in finishing fifth on Sunday in a field more competitive than any there has been for a women's cross country race has hardened her belief that she will succeed in London. "I am obviously in very good shape," she said.

The world cross country was McColgan's first international race for four months; her priority had been her training, logging 120 miles a week. Even in the week before Sunday's race, she almost touched 90 and, on a 6,350-metre course, was lost for speed. "I could have run better, but I felt the miles in my legs," she said.

Why Britain did not perform better here will be the subject of a British Athletic Federation cross country commission meeting on Sunday. Other than McColgan, there was no British finisher in the top ten and none of the four teams — two junior, two senior — was in the first six.



McColgan: stamina

Two significant decisions are expected. One is to move the date of the team trials closer to that of the world championships — the seven-week gap is likely to be shortened to three or four so the athletes can bring themselves to one short, sharp peak. The other is to use for next year's trial the Durham course on which Britain will host the 1995 world championships. Athletes can get used to it and it will ensure the 1994 trial course is fast. In addition, the calendar will need some restructuring to allow for the expected first European cross country championships.

The world's leading women and national federations are being asked for their views on lengthening the senior women's race. At present, it is more of a middle-distance than a distance run.

SANDOWN PARK

THUNDERER

2.20 Amari King. 2.55 Mr Jamboree. 3.25 Fifth Amendment. 3.55 Musthaveaswig. 4.25 SHAMANA (nap). 4.55 Bee Garden.

Brian Beel: 4.55 Bee Garden.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

2.20 GUNNER HERITAGE APPEAL HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,967: 2m 4f 110yd) (5 runners)

101 318-PP5 REDUNDANT PAL 80 (B,D,S) (Ladywood Racing Club) M Meade 10-12-0 C O'Dwyer –
102 22-5243 AMARI KING 17 (C,F,G,S) (M Ward-Thomas) T Forster 9-10-0 R Dunwoody 99
103 521341 LOVE ANEW 11 (F,G) (D Bowlett) M Dixon 8-10-0 D Murphy 70
104 216063 MISTER FEATHERS 10 (D,F,G) (Mrs M Forde) J King 12-10-0 A Maguire 88
105 2/FP05 GOLD SHAFT 41 (D,F,G) (R Ledger) R Ledger 10-10-0 Mrs N Ledger –

Long handicap: Love Anew 8-13, Mister Feathers 7-13, Gold Shaft 7-9.

BETTING: 8-11 Amari King, 2-1 Love Anew, 6-1 Redundant Pal, 8-1 Mister Feathers, 25-1 Gold Shaft.

1992: KISSANE 11-10-2 D Tegg (6-1) C Broad 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

REDUNDANT PAL has shown little form since beating The Musical Priest 4½l in a 6-runner handicap chase at Fairyhouse last April (2m, good to yielding). AMARI KING 1¾l last of 3 to Springholm in an amateurs' handicap chase over course and distance (firm). LOVE ANEW beat Western Legend 3l in a 5-runner handicap chase at Fakenham (2m 5f 110yd, good). Previously, 17¾l 4th of 7 to Amata in a handicap chase at Lingfield (2m 4f 110yd, good), with MISTER FEATHERS (6lb better off) 18l 6th.
Selection: AMARI KING

2.55 BRITISH AEROSPACE RAPIER NOVICES CHASE
(£4,045: 2m 4f 110yd) (5 runners)

201 F43361 MR JAMBOREE 24 (F,G) (Mrs D Lousada) J Gifford 7-11-4 D Murphy 99
202 /12/113 REGGAE BEAT 74 (BF,F,G) (S Arnold) I Campbell 8-11-4 R Campbell 93
203 4-3U14F WICK POUND 59 (B,D,G,S) (K Britten) J Old 7-11-4 T Grantham 77
204 64- BASSE TERRE 344 (R Hambro) N Twiston-Davies 9-11-0 D Bridgwater –
205 0P/0-6P0 LITTLE BRYMA 102 (Mrs J Curson) I Curson 11-11-0 Mr C Ward –

BETTING: 11-10 Mr Jamboree, 2-1 Reggae Beat, 5-1 Wick Pound, 18-2 Basse Terre, 33-1 Little Bryma.

1992: STAR SEASON 8-11-8 N Mann (4-6 fav) R Holder 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

MR JAMBOREE beat Musthaveaswig 6l in a 4-runner novice chase at Newbury (3m, firm). REGGAE BEAT beat Copper Mine 4l in a 9-runner novice chase at Doncaster on penultimate start (2m 110yd, good). WICK POUND 18¾l 4th of 6 to Dawson City in a novice chase at Aintree on penultimate start (2m 4f, good to soft). BASSE TERRE 15½l 4th of 15 to Rhoman Coin in a maiden hurdle at Towcester (2m, good to soft). Chasing debut.
Selection: MR JAMBOREE

3.25 ROYAL ARTILLERY GOLD CUP CHASE
(Amateurs: £3,582: 3m 110yd) (9 runners)

301 6P4110 FIFTH AMENDMENT 18 (B,D,F,G,S) (Hon T Ponsonby) Mrs F Walwyn 8-12-7 R Ponsonby 95
302 034322 RONANS-BIRTHDAY 13 (D,BF,F,G,S) (G Prest) P Hobbs 11-12-7 J Trice-Rolph 89
303 412261 OK CORRAL 8 (B,F,G,S) (19 Field Regiment Royal Artillery) J White 5-12-3 D McCain 99
304 56-6P33 CAMDEN BELLE 17 (CD,F,G) (J Berry) M Muggeridge 11-12-2 Maj O Ellwood 83
305 P/2FP-F1 GAELIC CHERRY 18 (CD,F,S) (D Fletcher) D Fletcher 10-12-0 C Ward Thomas 87
306 /5/06- EAGLE TRACE 355 (P Southcombe) P Southcombe 10-11-3 Miss J Southcombe 83
307 MUSKIN (Mrs A Sims) A Sims 9-11-3 Mr B Marquis –
308 0/0-04F0 WATERSFORD KNIGHT 18 (14th Field Regiment Royal Artillery) J Mullins 7-11-3 A Wood 66
309 03P006/ NORSE COUNTRY 690 (Mrs A Sims) A Sims 6-10-12 Capt R Inglesant –

BETTING: 15-8 OK Corral, 5-2 Fifth Amendment, 7-2 Gaelic Cherry, 11-2 Ronans Birthday, 10-1 Camden Belle, 20-1 others.

1992: CAMDEN BELLE 10-10-12 Capt O Ellwood (13-2) M Muggeridge 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

FIFTH AMENDMENT beat Gambridge Jupiter 3l in a 4-runner hunter chase at Stratford on penultimate start (3m, good). RONANS BIRTHDAY ½l 2nd of 6 to Rocktor in a handicap chase at Ludlow on penultimate start (3m, good to firm). OK CORRAL beat Owen 7l in a 5-runner handicap chase at Plumpton (3m 1f 110yd, good). Previously, 14½l 6th of 18 to On The Other Hand in an amateurs' chase over course and distance (firm), with FIFTH AMENDMENT (3lb better off) 1½l 7th and WATERSFORD KNIGHT 11th. CAMDEN BELLE 8l 3rd of 9 to Western Legend in a amateurs' handicap chase at Wincanton on penultimate start (2m 5f, good). Beat GAELIC CHERRY (11lb better off) 1l in this race last year (good), with EAGLE TRACE poor 7th of 15. GAELIC CHERRY beat Knockelly Castle 5l in a 6-runner hunter chase over course and distance (firm).
Selection: OK CORRAL

3.55 ALANBROOKE MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE
(£5,113: 3m 110yd) (5 runners)

401 0U4U13 BORACEVA 14 (CD,F,G,S) (Duke of Atholl) G Balding 10-11-10 A Maguire 96
402 4542F3 GOOD TONIC 24 (C,F,G,S) (Lady Wates) T Etherington 10-11-8 G McCourt 97
403 2P2112 MUSTHAVEASWIG 24 (D,BF,G) (P R D Fasteners Ltd) D Nicholson 7-11-1 R Dunwoody 94
404 03-3421 SKINNHILL 17 (B,C,D,F,G,S) (Queen Elizabeth) T Thomson Jones 9-10-5 S Smith Eccles 99
405 2F-3P64 SIR NODDY 17 (D,F) (J Nodes) C Vernon Miller 10-10-3 R Bellamy 87

BETTING: 13-8 Musthaveaswig, 15-8 Boraceva, 4-1 Skinnhill, 11-2 Good Tonic, 25-1 Sir Noddy.

1992: TUG OF GOLD 7-10-4 R Dunwoody (11-8 fav) D Nicholson 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

BORACEVA 1¼l 3rd of 7 to Givus A Buck in a Ritz Club National Hunt Handicap Chase at Cheltenham two weeks ago (3m 1f, good). Previously, beat Do Be Brief 7l in a 6-runner handicap chase at Warwick (3m 5f, good). GOOD TONIC 20¾l last of 3 to Panto Prince in a handicap chase at Newbury (2m 4f, firm). Better effort when ¾l 2nd of 5 to Mr Entertainer in a handicap chase, over the same course and distance, last month. MUSTHAVEASWIG 6l 2nd of 4 to Mr Jamboree in a novice chase at Newbury (3m, firm). SKINNHILL beat Red Rondo 30l in an 8-runner handicap chase at Wolverhampton (3m 1f, good to firm). SIR NODDY 7l last of 3 finishers to Calabrese in a handicap chase at Hereford on reappearance (2m 3f, heavy).
Selection: BORACEVA

4.25 ROYAL ORDNANCE HANDICAP CHASE (£4,104: 2m) (5 runners)

501 423011 CLAY COUNTY 17 (D,F,G,S) (M Boyd) R Allan 8-11-10 P Scudamore 99
502 21P412 SHAMANA 12 (D,G,S) (Lord Northampton) D Nicholson 7-11-7 R Dunwoody 95
503 134335 SETTER COUNTRY 12 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs A Inshaw) R Hedges 9-10-11 W Irvine 95
504 101/21-3 GENERAL JAMES 20 (D,F,G) (Mrs T Brown) J Gifford 10-10-2 D Murphy 85
505 1-33253 TOUCHING STAR 67 (B,D,F,G) (A Palmer) P Hobbs 8-10-0 M Hourigan (3) 74

Long handicap: Touching Star 9-2.

BETTING: 7-4 Clay County, 5-2 Shamana, 11-4 Setter Country, 11-2 General James, 20-1 Touching Star.

1992: AL HASHIMI 8-12-0 R Dunwoody (15-8 jt-fav) D Nicholson 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

CLAY COUNTY beat Macarthur 8l in a 3-runner handicap chase at Ayr (2m, good). SHAMANA 2l 2nd of 12 to Space Fair in the Grand Annual Handicap Chase Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to firm), with SETTER COUNTRY (4lb better off) 33l 5th. SETTER COUNTRY 1¼l 3rd of 4 to Ensee-H in a conditions chase at Kempton on penultimate start (2m, good). GENERAL JAMES beat San Ovac 5l in a 4-runner conditional jockeys' handicap chase at Kempton on final start last season (2m 4f, good).
Selection: SHAMANA (nap)

4.55 RMC GROUP UBIQUE HUNTER CHASE
(Amateurs: £1,688: 2m 4f 110yd) (14 runners)

601 1-5 ASTROAR 21 (F) (J Perry) J Perry 12-12-2 R Lawther (7) 83
602 326-232 BEE GARDEN 21 (B,D,G,S) (W Goodes) Mrs J Laston 12-12-2 Miss P Curling (7) 99
603 21-44F5 EASTER LEE 15 (C,D,F,G) (Mrs J Fowler) J Dufosee 13-12-2 P Hacking (3) 94
604 U005-44 BASIL THYME 21 (D,F,S) (W Donohue) Miss P Whittle 13-11-12 G Barfoot-Saunt (7) 86
605 6/20P/P BILBROOK 19 (G) (R Fear) R Fear 11-11-12 S Bush (7) –
606 POP-PUB COMEDY BASIN 15 (F) (Mrs A Sims) A Sims 10-11-12 Capt R Inglesant (7) –
607 44400/6 FRED THE TREAD 21 (B,F) (Miss A Rawding) Miss A Rawding 11-11-12 A Hill (3) –
608 250/05 PADDYBORO 38 (C,D,F,G,S) (R Hemmings) Miss W Evans 15-11-12 N Bradley (7) 86
609 301/ SUNSET COURT 1097 (F) (R Pike) R Pike 11-11-12 A Tutton (7) –
610 5231P-U AL-KHALIDA 40 (F) Mrs G Russell Holmes 9-11-11 Mrs G Russell Holmes (7) 85
611 U/25/5F DAN O'TULLY 11 (C Nimmo) C Nimmo 14-11-8 B Pollock (7) –
612 252/P HAPPY PADDY 21 (Mrs B Taaffe) B Summers 10-11-8 T Janks (5) –
613 3F/0F02- TUMBLE TIME 311 (A Figg) Ms P Gowers 9-11-8 A Figg (7) 83
614 100/0-FU WIBBLE-WABBLE 34 (G) (F Matthews) F Matthews 7-11-8 J Rice (7) –

BETTING: Evens Bee Garden, 4-1 Tumble Time, 9-2 Dan O'Tully, 7-1 Astroar, 10-1 Basil Thyme, 14-1 Bilbrook, Fred The Tread, 16-1 others

1992: LISLARY LAD 12-11-9 T Jones (8-1) L Bowles 13 ran

FORM FOCUS

ASTROAR beat Final Spring 1l in an 11-runner hunter chase at Towcester last May (3m 1f, firm). BEE GARDEN 7l 2nd of 10 to Dark Dawn in a hunter chase at Leicester three weeks ago (2m 4f 110yd, good), with BASIL THYME (2lb worse off) 11l 4th, ASTROAR a distance 5th and FRED THE TREAD tailed off 6th. AL-KHALIDA beat Ryton Run 1½l in a 5-runner novice chase at Taunton on penultimate start last season (2m 110yd, hard). TUMBLE TIME 2½l 2nd of 13 to Palmahalm in an amateurs' maiden hunter chase at Cartmel last season (3m 1f, firm).
Selection: BEE GARDEN

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Nicholson	17	70	24.3	Mr J Trice-Rolph	4	10	40.0
J Old	3	14	21.4	Mr C Ward Thomas	5	15	33.3
J Gifford	26	158	16.5	P Scudamore	17	56	30.4
N Twiston-Davies	4	25	16.0	D Murphy	10	49	20.4
T Thomson Jones	3	19	15.8	R Dunwoody	27	133	20.3
P Hobbs	3	20	15.0	A Maguire	6	40	15.0

LEICESTER

THUNDERER

2.00 Field Of Stars. 2.30 Roger The Butler. 3.00 Parfait Amour. 3.30 Rousitto. 4.00 Glide Path. 4.30 Carojango. 5.00 Astern.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.00 FIELD OF STARS.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

2.00 BESCABY MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,494: 1m 8yd) (12 runners)

1 433- EMBANKMENT 166 R Hannon 9-0 J Reid 1
2 02- FIELD OF STARS 158 J Gosden 9-0 R Cochrane 2
3 4-4 HOOCHIECOOCHIE MAN 39 (BF) D Arbuthnot 9-0 R Price 7
4 MASTER BEVELED A Jones 9-0 N Adams 10
5 0- M'BEBE 197 B Hills 9-0 D Holland 4
6 RUNAWAY PETE P Cole 9-0 T Quinn 9
7 03- SUN OF SPRING 154 M Stoute 9-0 M Roberts 11
8 0-5 TELEPHONIC 6 M Prescott 9-0 C Nutter 3
9 00- WIRED FOR SOUND 161 M Channon 9-0 Lorna Vincent 6
10 00-6 MISS OFFIE 57 R Hollinshead 8-9 W Ryan 8
11 SABEEL Mrs L Piggott 8-9 A Munro 12
12 ZAAHEYAH J Fanshawe 8-9 W R Swinburn 5

2-1 Field Of Stars, 7-2 Embankment, 4-1 Sun Of Spring, 7-1 Runaway Pete, 12-1 M'Bebe, 14-1 Zaaheyah, 16-1 Sabeel, 20-1 others

2.30 LODDINGTON CONDITIONS STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,201: 5f 218yd) (7)

1 110- BRIGG FAIR 171 (D,F,G) R Hannon 9-0 J Reid 5
2 110- PALACEGATE TOUCH 171 (D,G,S) J Berry 9-0 G Carter 7
3 610- ARADANZA 157 (F,S) M Channon 8-10 T Quinn 1
4 226- LORD OLIVIER 171 (F) W Jarvis 8-10 M Tebbutt 6
5 124- ROGER THE BUTLER 157 (D,S) M Bell 8-10 M Hills 2
6 41- SISON 354 (G) R Whitaker 8-10 G Parkin (7) 3
7 300- THE SHARP BIDDER 165 (CD,G) R Hollinshead 8-10 W Ryan 4

9-4 Roger The Butler, 11-4 Brigg Fair, 4-1 Lord Olivier, 6-1 Aradanza, 7-1 Palacegate Touch, 14-1 Sison, 20-1 The Sharp Bidder

3.00 BILLESDON SELLING GUARANTEED SWEEPSTAKES (£2,070: 5f 2yd) (8)

1 600- GREAT HALL 155 P Cundell 4-9-12 J Williams 8
2 0562 HINARI VIDEO 14 (D,G,S) M Johnston 8-9-12 M Roberts 2
3 036- THE RIGHT TIME 147 (B,F,S) J Pearce 8-9-12 L Dettori 1
4 000- BOULABAS 330 (D,G) J Pearce 4-9-7 R Cochrane 3
5 000- PARFAIT AMOUR 158 (F) R Whitaker 4-9-7 W Carson 4
6 02-5 TOMMY TEMPEST 66 R Burke 4-9-7 T Quinn 7
7 65-4 COCKERHAM RANGER 12 (D,G) J Berry 3-8-13 G Carter 6
8 3520 EXPRESS MARIECURIE 12 (B,G) Mrs N Macauley 5-8-8 A Munro 5

3-1 Hinari Video, 4-1 Cockerham Ranger, 5-1 Parfait Amour, 6-1 Express Mariecurie, 7-1 Tommy Tempest, 12-1 The Right Time, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Gosden, 17 winners from 62 runners, 27.4%; M Stoute, 18 from 78, 23.1%; R Charlton, 4 from 21, 19.0%; R Johnson Houghton, 6 from 37, 16.2%; W Hern, 7 from 44, 15.9%; M Prescott, 5 from 35, 14.3%.

JOCKEYS: L Piggott, 6 from 27, 22.2%; W Carson, 26 from 140, 18.6%; W R Swinburn, 20 from 114, 17.5%; Pat Eddery, 17 from 97, 17.5%; L Dettori, 16 from 113, 15.9%; T Quinn, 18 from 119, 15.1%.

3.30 KINGFISHER HANDICAP
(£3,209: 1m 3f 183yd) (16)

1 00-5 ROUSITTO 5 (D,F,S) R Hollinshead 5-9-10 W Ryan 3
2 112- WILKINS 207 (G,S) J Fanshawe 4-9-10 G Carter 16
3 5003- SAINT CIEL 28J (F,S) F Jordan 5-9-9 W Newnes 15
4 400- MOON SPIN 15J (F) W Hern 4-9-6 W Carson 5
5 /02 SUNKALA SHINE 32 Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-9-5 K Fallon 14
6 5110- ZEALOUS KITTEN 32J (G,S) R Price 5-8-13 B Doyle (5) 6
7 -308 EIRE LEATH-SCEAL 5 (C,D,F,G) M Brittain 6-8-7 M Wigham 9
8 6-40 VA UTU 11J (C,G) M Channon 5-8-2 C Rutter 8
9 54-6 BALAAT 26J (F) M Chapman 5-7-13 D McCabe (7) 4
10 364- STATE OF AFFAIRS 58J (F) C Horgan 6-7-12 Dale Gibson 12
11 000- LLOYDS DREAM 35J D Shaw 4-7-7 J Quinn 7
12 -235 SWEET REVIVAL 12 J Glover 5-7-7 N Kennedy (3) 2
13 60-0 SAIF AL ADIL 26 R Ivory 4-7-7 G Bardwell 13
14 -015 HEIR OF EXCITEMENT 46 (D,F) A Stringer 8-7-7 F Norton (3) 11
15 65/ ROCKY ROMANCE 575 R Curtis 6-7-7 A Munro 10
16 000- TEN HIGH 20J J Dooler 4-7-7 N Adams 1

9-2 Moon Spin, 5-1 Wilkins, 7-1 Sunkala Shine, Rousitto, 8-1 Zealous Kitten, 10-1 Sweet Revival, 12-1 Eire Leath-Sceal, 14-1 Saint Ciel, 16-1 others.

4.00 GREYHOUND HANDICAP
(£3,348: 1m 1f 218yd) (11)

1 001- GRAND VITESSE 178 (F,S) R Hannon 4-10-0 Mark Denaro (7) 8
2 306- GLIDE PATH 157 (D,F) J Hills 4-9-12 M Hills 3
3 2-54 VINTAGE 81 (C,D,F,S) W Hern 8-9-11 W Carson 5
4 021- LOBILIO 171 (D,G) C Brittain 4-9-2 M Roberts 11
5 243- HIT THE FAN 156 R Charlton 4-9-1 Pat Eddery 4
6 0-22 BESCABY BOY 5 (F,G,S) J Wharton 7-8-12 J Williams 6
7 405- SWIFT SILVER 186 (D,G,S) W Musson 6-8-8 J Reid 1
8 1-04 WESTFIELD MOVES 25 (D,F,G) H Collingridge 5-8-5 J Quinn 2
9 3-00 FALCONS DAWN 4 (C,D,F,S) A Bailey 6-8-4 G Bardwell 7
10 244- LONG FURLONG 217 (CD,F,G) T Hallett 5-8-0 N Adams 10
11 6-30 GONE BUST 47 R Johnson Houghton 4-7-13 A Tucker (3) 9

7-2 Lobilio, 9-2 Hit The Fan, 5-1 Bescaby Boy, 7-1 Falcons Dawn, 8-1 Glide Path, 10-1 Vintage, 12-1 Grand Vitesse, 16-1 others.

4.30 LEVY BOARD CLAIMING STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,489: 1m 1f 218yd) (9)

1 4 CAROJANGO 29 M Bell 9-7 J O'Dwyer (7) 2
2 -350 GENERAL LINK 45 P Kelleway 8-9 W Carson 9
3 -440 QUICK SILVER BOY 25 D Burchell 8-9 L Charnock 8
4 0-40 THREEOFUS 6 R Ivory 8-9 G Bardwell 8
5 5316 ANN HILL 54 (D) R Hollinshead 8-8 M Humphries (7) 4
6 601- STAPLEFORD LASS 174 (D,S) S Woods 8-6 W Woods 5
7 140- GENERAL CHASE 179 (C,G) P Murphy 8-5 J Williams 7
8 000- BEYOND THE LIMIT 98 D Marks 8-4 T Quinn 1
9 556- KESANTA 231 W G M Turner 8-4 T Sprake 3

11-4 General Chase, 7-2 Carojango, 9-2 Stapleford Lass, 6-1 General Link, 8-1 Ann Hill, 10-1 Beyond The Limit, 12-1 Quick Silver Boy, 16-1 others.

5.00 KEYTHORPE MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,289: 7f 9yd) (10)

1 ASTERN J Gosden 8-11 Pat Eddery 3
2 BINT AL BALAD J Fanshawe 8-11 G Carter 6
3 06- CHAMPAGNE GRANDY 262 M Channon 8-11 T Quinn 1
4 250- EXHIBIT AIR 199 R Hannon 8-11 J Reid 10
5 24- HAZY KAY 284 P Kelleway 8-11 A Munro 4
6 00- LAKE POOPO 180 B Hills 8-11 D Holland 8
7 RANI C Brittain 8-11 M Roberts 5
8 00- RISPOTO 169 M Prescott 8-11 C Nutter 9
9 SAKURA QUEEN S Woods 8-11 W Woods 7
10 304- SEHAILAH 150 Mrs L Piggott 8-11 L Piggott 2

6-4 Astern, 9-2 Hazy Kay, 6-1 Exhibit Air, 8-1 Sehailah, 10-1 Lake Poopo, 12-1 Rani, 14-1 Bint Al Balad, 16-1 others.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Newcastle: 3.45 Miliyel.

NEWCASTLE

THUNDERER

2.15 Chilly Breeze. 2.45 Arta. 3.15 Amron. 3.45 Grey Power. 4.15 Mount Fuji. 4.45 Philgun.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 4.15 Mount Fuji.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.15 MONKEY BUSINESS MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O fillies: £2,355: 6f) (3 runners)

1 5- CHILLY BREEZE 144 M Prescott 8-11 G Duffield 3
2 560- KILLY'S FILLY 183 J Berry 8-11 J Carroll 2
3 036- NITEOWLADY 286 S Norton 8-11 K Darley 1

4-6 Chilly Breeze, 2-1 Killy's Filly, 6-1 Niteowlady

2.45 HORSE FEATHERS MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £3,172: 5f) (6)

1 ARTA R Whitaker 9-0 A Culhane 4
2 GRANDMAN D Moffatt 9-0 Darren Moffatt (7) 2
3 SALTPETRE M Brittain 9-0 J Marshall (7) 6
4 SING SONG BLUES J Berry 9-0 J Carroll 1
5 4 TOP SHOW S K Hogg Jnr(?) 9-0 K Darley 5
6 PRECISION EDGE R Fisher 8-9 D Nicholls 3

8-13 Sing Song Blues, 5-2 Top Show, 6-1 Saltpetre, 12-1 Arta, 16-1 Grandman, 33-1 Precision Edge.

3.15 GO WEST SPRINT HANDICAP (£4,498: 5f) (7)

1 00-1 AMRON 5 (CD,F,G,S) J Berry 6-10-2 (7ex) N Carlisle 7
2 60-2 EAGER DEVA 5 (D,F,G) R Hollinshead 6-10-0 S Wynne (5) 2
3 300- PENNY HASSET 176 (D,F,G,S) M W Easterby 5-9-0 T Lucas 5
4 2426 EWALD 5 (D,BF) M Johnston 5-8-6 Dean McKeown 1
5 03-0 SO SUPERB 6 M Dods 4-8-5 J Lowe 4
6 82-0 MISS MOVIE WORLD 5 (D,S) N Bycroft 4-8-4 J Fanning 6
7 060- EVER SO LONELY 183 (D,F,S) A Bailey 4-8-2 D Wright (7) 3

11-10 Amron, 100-30 Eager Deva, 7-1 Penny Hasset, 8-1 Miss Movie World, 10-1 Ewald, 16-1 Ever So Lonely, 33-1 So Superb.

☐ Andrew Thornton extended his lead in the amateur riders' championship to five when winning on Lynch Law at Hexham yesterday.

3.45 AT THE CIRCUS HANDICAP
(£2,976: 2m 19yd) (11)

1 0/0- ONE FOR THE POT 12J (C,F,G,S) M Naughton 8-9-10 J Weaver (3) 3
2 123- GREY POWER 12J (BF,F,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-9-3 K Darley 9
3 /52- HOT STAR 27J (S) G Moore 7-8-13 J Lowe 2
4 006- BEST GUN 67J (B,F) C W Elsey 4-8-11 J Carroll 6
5 0-60 LATOUR 12J (S) Mrs A Swinbank 5-8-9 Paul Eddery 4
6 580- ONLY A ROSE 56J C Thornton 4-8-4 N Connorton 7
7 110- DESERT MIST 21J (B,BF,F) Denys Smith 4-8-3 C Teague (7) 8
8 62-0 MILIYEL 6 (V) Miss G Kelleway 4-8-1 N Carlisle 1
9 000- BRIDGE PLAYER 20J D Moffatt 6-8-1 Darren Moffatt (7) 11
10 4/6- CHANTRY BARTLE 6J (F) C Thornton 7-7-10 J Fanning 5
11 305- COST EFFECTIVE 145 (D,F) M Brittain 6-7-7 A Mackay 10

7-4 Grey Power, 4-1 One For The Pot, 6-1 Hot Star, 11-1 Desert Mist, 14-1 others

4.15 ANIMAL CRACKERS MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,055: 1m 2f 32yd) (6)

1 00-0 BADENOCH BURNER 74 N Tinkler 9-0 Kim Tinkler 6
2 0- EATON ROW 164 P Chapple-Hyam 9-0 S Whitworth 1
3 MOUNT FUJI G Wragg 9-0 R Hills 5
4 3- UM ALGOWAIN 155 M Stoute 9-0 Paul Eddery 2
5 635- GROGFRYN 183 J Berry 8-9 J Carroll 3
6 KARIB C W Elsey 8-9 K Darley 4

4-5 Um Algowain, 2-1 Eaton Row, 5-1 Mount Fuji, 12-1 Grogfryn, 33-1 others.

4.45 DUCK SOUP HANDICAP
(£3,260: 1m 2f 32yd) (8)

1 045- MAD MILITANT 181 (D,F,G) R Hollinshead 4-10-0 S Wynne (5) 4
2 002- COMMON COUNCIL 27J (F) M Hammond 4-9-9 G Duffield 5
3 101- GOLDEN TORQUE 210 (C,D,F,G,S) R Bastiman 6-9-5 H Bastiman (7) 7
4 /00- KHALLOOF 48J (G) Denys Smith 4-9-3 D Nicholls 8
5 123- JAZILAH 251 (CD,BF,F) Mrs M Reveley 5-9-2 K Darley 3
6 356- PHILGUN 147 (C,F,S) C W Elsey 4-8-9 S Maloney (3) 2
7 380- TANODA 173 (D,F,G,S) M Brittain 7-7-7 J Lowe 6
8 804- LORD LAMBSON 162 R Whitaker 4-7-7 J Fanning 1

6-5 Jazilah, 11-4 Golden Torque, 5-1 Common Council, 7-1 Tanoda, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Stoute, 12 winners from 35 runners, 34.3%; G Wragg, 3 from 9, 33.3%; M Prescott, 7 from 24, 29.2%; J Berry, 17 from 92, 18.5%; S Norton, 4 from 27, 14.8%; N Tinkler, 4 from 33, 12.1%.

JOCKEYS: G Duffield, 9 winners from 51 rides, 17.6%; N Connorton, 8 from 46, 17.4%; J Carroll, 16 from 96, 16.7%; Dean McKeown, 16 from 118, 13.6%; R Hills, 5 from 37, 13.5%; Paul Eddery, 5 from 39, 12.8%.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Folkestone

Going: good to firm

1.50 (1m 1f 149yd) 1, HERE HE COMES (J Quinn, 9-4 fav; Thunderer's nap); 2, Tenayestelign (S Dawson, 25-1); 3, Dancing Beau (M Roberts, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Sinelmar, 8 Almost A Princess (6th), 10 Susmen (4th), Sol Rouge, 14 Appliancecofscience, 16 Red Ink, 20 Skimmer Hawk (5th), Bronze Runner, Prince Rooney, Jarzon Dancer, 25 Up All Night. 14 ran. 1l, 6l, sh hd, 3l, nk. R Akehurst at Epsom. Tote: £3.20; £2.40, £5.10, £1.90. DF: £49.40. CSF £53.22. Tricast: £445.22.

2.20 (6f 189yd) 1, MR NEVERMIND (B Rouse, 6-1); 2, Royal Dartmouth (J Williams, 11-2); 3, Precious Wonder (R Cochrane, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 4 fav Nobby Barnes (5th), 6 Duty Sergeant (6th), 7 Dam Certain, Sunset Street, 8 Bellatrix (4th), 25 Miss Precocious, 33 Barbezieux. 10 ran. 1l, 1½l, sh hd, hd, 1½l. A Moore at Brighton. Tote £6.70; £1.60, £2.50, £1.90. DF: £23.10. CSF: £35.62 Tricast: £293.51. After a stewards' enquiry result stood.

2.50 (6f 189yd) 1, SPRING SIXPENCE (G Duffield, 11-2); 2, Good Image (Pat Eddery, 5-1); 3, Koa (G Carter, 4-1 fav). ALSO RAN: 7 Rusty Reel, 8 Texas Cowgirl (5th), 10 Who's The Best, Canadian Eagle, 12 Pure Madness, 16 Eastern Glow (6th), Arawa, 33 Medland (4th), Petite Louie, Beat The Bagman. 13 ran. 3½l, 5l, ½l, nk, ¾l. J Fanshawe at Newmarket. Tote £6.30; £1.70, £1.90, £2.10. DF: £25.60. CSF: £31.44.

3.20 (6f) 1, MR VINCENT (D Harrison, 15-8 fav); 2, Royal Interval (T Sprake, 2-1); 3, Silver Groom (S Whitworth, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 9-4 Trinity Hall (4th). 4 ran. Nk, 4l, 12l. G Lewis at Epsom. Tote: £2.30. DF: £5.30 CSF: £5.95.

3.50 (5f) 1, SABRE RATTLER (Pat Eddery, 4-5 fav); 2, Kamaatera (W R Swinburn, 11-10). 2 ran. 2l. J Berry at Cockerham. Tote: £1.70.

4.20 (5f) 1, MADAME GREGOIRE (R Cochrane, 5-2); 2, Antonia's Folly (Pat Eddery, 15-8 fav); 3, Flair Lady (T Sprake, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Europharm Lassie (5th), 12 Stansk (4th), Kiss No Tell, Mace El Reem, 33 Forever Blushing (6th). 8 ran. NR: Southdown Girl. 1l, 1l, ¾l, hd, 6l. J Eustace at Newmarket. Tote: £4.00; £1.10, £1.60, £2.30 DF: £3.80. CSF: £7.76.

4.50 (1m 4f) 1, ONE VOICE (G Duffield, 7-2); 2, Preston Guild (R Cochrane, 7-4 fav); 3, Early To Rise (M Roberts, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Honorary Guest (fell), Westray (4th), 10 Bedewn (5th), 25 Danger Baby (6th). 7 ran. 4l, 15l, 8l, 1¾l, 7l. Sir Mark Prescott at Newmarket. Tote: £6.10; £3.10, £1.50. DF: £9.30. CSF: £10.01.

Placepot: £35.20.

Hamilton Park

Going: soft (heavy in places)

2.10 (1m 1f 36yd) 1, Palacegate Sunset (J Carroll, 13-8 fav); 2, Friendly Knight (33-1); 3, Goodbye Millie (9-2). 6 ran. Nk, 1¾l. J Berry. Tote: £2.70; £1.40, £8.50. DF: £14.30. CSF: £31.53.

2.40 (1m 65yd) 1, Shannon Express (Claire Balding, 10-1); 2, Selda (6-1); 3, Chantry Bellini (20-1). Mentalasanythin 11-4 fav. 11 ran. NR: Quantity Surveyor. Nk, nk. E Alston. Tote: £9.90; £2.50, £2.60, £4.60. DF: £59.40. CSF: £54.46. Tricast: £1,078.47.

3.10 (6f 5yd) 1, Tanagome (O Pears, 4-1); 2, Peedie Peat (6-1); 3, Cambrea Snip (5-1). Anusha 3-1 jt-fav. 6 ran. Sh hd, 6l. S Norton. Tote: £4.50; £2.60, £3.70. DF: £15.00 CSF: £24.18.

3.40 (5f 4yd) 1, Charity Express (J Carroll, 4-9 fav); 2, Go Flightline (9-4); 3, Selvole (7-1). 3 ran. 2l, 10l. J Berry. Tote £1.60. DF £1.20. CSF: £1.86.

4.10 (5f 4yd) 1, Steadfast Elite (K Darley, 10-1); 2, Cutsyth Flyer (13-8); 3, Mad About Men (8-1). Joyrider 6-4 fav. 6 ran. 2l, 5l. J J O'Neill. Tote £9.50; £2.30, £1.80. DF: £7.20 CSF: £25.78.

4.40 (1m 4f 17yd) 1, Merrion Mill (M Hills, 13-8 fav); 2, Vaigly Sunthyme (7-1); 3, Moonlight Eclipse (8-1). 6 ran. 1½l, 12l. M Bell. Tote: £2.20; £1.10, £2.20. DF: £10.60 CSF: £11.92 Placepot: £555.10.

Hexham

Going: good to firm

2.00 (2m hdle) 1, Lynch Law (Mr A Thornton, 5-1); 2, Make Me Proud (7-1); 3, Wee Wizard (6-1). Hazel Leaf 6-2 fav. 21 ran. 3½l, 8l. P Cheesbrough. Tote: £3.70; £2.70, £2.20, £2.10. DF: £7.10. CSF: £38.12.

2.30 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Khojohn (C Woodall, 7-1); 2, Antiguan Flyer (9-2); 3, Scottish Peril (7-1). Knayton Prospect 15-8 fav. 14 ran. NR: Expensionist. 2½l, nk. Mrs V Aconley. Tote: £6.40; £1.60, £1.50, £3.10 DF: £6.00. CSF: £40.67 Tricast: £219.61.

3.00 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Kamart (P Waggott, 7-2 jt-fav); 2, Wild Atlantic (7-1); 3, Moss Bee (9-2). Reel Lark 7-2 jt-fav. 10 ran. Nk, 5l. M Barnes. Tote: £3.40; £1.50, £3.60, £1.50. DF: £14.90. CSF £24.83.

3.30 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Palmrush (C Grant, 6-1); 2, Our Survivor (25-1); 3, Zuko (16-1). Regan 5-1 fav. 15 ran. 3½l, 4l. M Hammond. Tote: £9.10; £2.90, £10.40, £11.10. DF: £296.70. CSF: £131.71. Tricast £2,097.19.

4.00 (2m hdle) 1, Station Express (S Mason, 12-1); 2, Spanish Whisper (11-2); 3, Master Of The Rock (4-1 fav). 14 ran. NR: Kirstenbosch, Pit Pony, Solitary Reaper. ½l, 1¾l. B Ellison. Tote: £12.00; £2.60, £1.80, £1.80. DF: £62.10. CSF: £80.57. Tricast £286.74.

4.30 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Queen's Chaplain (Mr Chris Wilson, 7-4 fav); 2, Lingham Magic (7-1); 3, Prideaux Prince (16-1). 14 ran. NR: Galloway Breeze. 10l, 3½l. Mrs A Swinbank. Tote: £3.00; £1.40, £2.40, £7.50 DF: £20.40. CSF: £16.14

5.00 (3m hdle) 1, Stated Case (L Wyer, 7-2); 2, Celtic Breeze (7-4 fav); 3, Festival Fancy (2-1). 7 ran. Hd, dist. M H Easterby. Tote: £4.10; £2.10, £2.20. DF: £7.70 CSF: £9.74. Placepot: £281.90.

☐ Medaille D'Or, the first British raider of the season, finished two lengths sixth to Charme Slave in the Prix Cor de Chasse at Maisons-Laffitte yesterday. The Pip Payne-trained five-year-old broke fast and set a good gallop but was collared close home.

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Pakistan's fast bowlers struggling to make impact in West Indies

Team captaincy could handicap Wasim


Wasim: high-risk choice

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK IN ST VINCENT

THE trail has moved on to St Vincent, where the fourth one-day international between West Indies and Pakistan will be played today. Until now the venues — Kingston and Port of Spain — have been much less exotic; but here the Caribbean laps up against the ground. Put a shell to your ear and it matches the noise of the crowd.

The way Pakistan picked themselves up on Saturday should have done them a power of good. After nine successive defeats they must have been beginning to think that West Indies were invincible; and they are certainly not that, except, perhaps, at Perth in Western Australia, where Curtly Ambrose, with his height and lift and abnormal control, is worth any two other bowlers put together. West Indies still have no spin to speak of, and Hooper and Logie hang on to their places in the middle order more through association than recent achievement.

Pakistan have been in crisis, not least, I think, because the appointment of Wasim Akram as captain and Waqar Younis as vice-captain, is so obviously speculative. The cumulative bowling figures of these two in the first three one-day internationals were 28-0-145-2 and 28-5-135-2 respectively, and there were three or four others who looked as though they were on point duty when Pakistan were in the field on Saturday.

Waqar, in fact, seems rather to grow in stature; but one wonders whether Wasim can do the job without his form being affected, which would be more than Pakistan can afford, or, for that matter, whether he has quite the temperament for it. He is rising 27, though, which is not too young, and ambition is a formidable spur.

On a more general note, the combination of a left-handed and right-handed batsman in the one-day series has been having a noticeably unsettling affect on some of the bowlers. At the pinch on Saturday, Walsh and even Ambrose were in trouble with their line against the left-handed Mujtaba, as Walsh and Simmons had been earlier when Ramiz and the left-handed Sohail were together. It is another reason for thinking that the sooner David Gower comes back into the England side the more runs it is likely to make.

A public holiday has been declared for today's match, and with every ticket sold and walls that are no harder to scale than palm trees, the record attendance for the ground is sure to be broken, as it was last week both at Sabina Park and at the Queen's Park Oval. There would have been perhaps 18,000 at Sabina Park, though nobody was certain, and 28,000 each day at Queen's Park.

Of St Vincent's population of 110,000, roughly one in eight will be at the cricket today. The ground actually marches with the shore, with a new stand on the inland side providing a spectacular view of the Grenadines and sails of all colours, like paper darts, in the sea.

□ Bobby Parks, the wicketkeeper released by Hampshire after 12 years, received £124,642 from his benefit last season. Parks, 34, has yet to find a new county.

Porter running out of title platforms

THOSE who pay to watch boxing, rather than those cabaret acts that pass as the sport these days, know that the lower weights give the best value. They can expect an all-action affair when Robbie Regan, of Wales, defends his European flyweight title against Danny Porter, of England, at the Welsh Institute of Sport in Cardiff tonight (Srikumar Sen writes).

Both are coming off good performances. Regan won the title from Salvatore Fauni, of Italy; Porter came close to beating Pat Clinton, of Scotland, the World Boxing Organisation champion, in Glasgow. Most insiders thought Porter was a clear winner, but the Englishman did not get the decision.

Regan, who has the better technique, is looking forward to challenging for the world title, and a chance to make some money, in a bout with Dave McAuley, the former world champion, from Belfast. The Hitchin man, on the other hand, has had seven attempts at a title of one kind or another and knows this could be his last chance. He is going to give it a go, as he always does.

Preparations begin

PARALYMPICS: The British Paralympic Association marked the start of its preparations for the Atlanta Games in 1996 yesterday with the launch of a celebratory brochure from previous Paralympics. The brochure, which costs £3, is aimed at helping to raise the BPA's target of £2.5 million to fund British athletes at the World Deaf Games in Sofia this summer, the winter Paralympic Games in Lillehammer next year and the Atlanta Games. The BPA is also hoping to become a full member of the International Paralympic Committee, increase training facilities for the athletes through stronger ties with the British Olympic Association and national sports governing bodies and increase public awareness.

Douglas on standby

TABLE TENNIS: Desmond Douglas, the most popular and successful English player since the 1950s, could compete for his country again at the world championships in Gothenburg in six weeks' time (Richard Eaton writes).

Three years after retiring from international play, and at the age of 37, the former European Top 12 champion has been named as non-travelling reserve. But his chances of going are quite high. Alan Cooke has a long-standing back injury while Chen Xinhua, the England No. 1, is still troubled by a blood vessel injury in his thigh.

ENGLAND TEAM: Men: Chen Xinhua (Yorkshire), C Prean (Isle of Wight), M Syed (Berkshire), A Cooke (Derbyshire). Women: L Lomas (Bedfordshire), A Flux (Lancashire), F Monmasson (Staffordshire).

Queensland routed

CRICKET: New South Wales were 37 runs away from beating Queensland and so winning the Sheffield Shield for a record 41st time after a bizarre fourth day of the match at Sydney. Queensland, who were only 30 runs behind on the first innings, were bowled out for 75 in their second innings, fast bowler Wayne Holdsworth taking seven for 41, the best figures of his career, to finish as the season's leading wicket-taker. His 53 wickets have cost him 25.06 apiece, figures which have put him firmly in the reckoning for the tour of England. New South Wales, needing 46 to win, lost Steve Ball to the first ball of their innings but had reached nine for one when bad light stopped play.

UAU team weakened

HOCKEY: Financial problems have caused several players to drop out of the UAU team defending the title in the British Universities Sports Federation tournament starting today at Ulster University, Jordanstown, Co Antrim. The players concerned cannot afford to pay a proportion of the costs of taking part. Oxford, too, are somewhat depleted as they are concentrating on the inter-league play-offs, which start at Oiton on April 2. A change of format means that the champions will be decided by a round-robin competition among the seven teams taking part — Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Oxford, Cambridge, London and UAU.

Manager dismounts

CYCLO-CROSS: Brian Cossavella has resigned as British team manager after three years, following a decision by the national association to restructure its operation, as outlined in a four-year plan submitted to the Sports Council. Cossavella, linked closely with Roger Hammond's victory in the world junior championship at Leeds last year, feels that the proposed appointment of a national coach would see his responsibilities diminish. Next season's national championships, when a women's title will be contested for the first time, will be held in Southampton on January 9.

Feeder league plan

RUGBY LEAGUE: The Rugby Football League yesterday attempted to deflect criticism of its decision to abandon three of the 35 professional clubs with a proposal for a feeder league of 12 teams next season (Christopher Irvine writes). The RFL is discussing the inclusion of amateur teams in the proposed conference league with the British Amateur Rugby League Association. It is expected that promotion to the professional two-division set-up will depend on clubs successfully meeting strict financial criteria.

Harriman leads England squad

BY DAVID HANDS

FIVE of the players picked to tour Canada with England will also play in the Rugby World Cup Sevens at Murrayfield next month. England's squad for the tournament, announced yesterday, will be captained by Andrew Harriman, the Harlequins wing and an acknowledged Sevens expert.

The Sevens squad will meet at Hartlepool on April 11 before travelling on to Scotland for the tournament, which begins on April 16. "It's not the highest of our priorities," Don Rutherford, the Rugby Football Union's technical director, said yesterday of a squad including only two full internationals — Harriman and Tim Rodber, "but it's a tremendous incentive to those participating."

Whether England, with no rehearsal together as a team since November, can make an impact against the likes of Western Samoa or Fiji is doubtful and Rutherford admitted: "If there were no other competing activities, such as the Lions, the team might have taken on a different shape."

England have always said they would avoid increasing the commitments of their leading players while the Super Ten provincial competition will also keep some of the best southern hemisphere players at home.

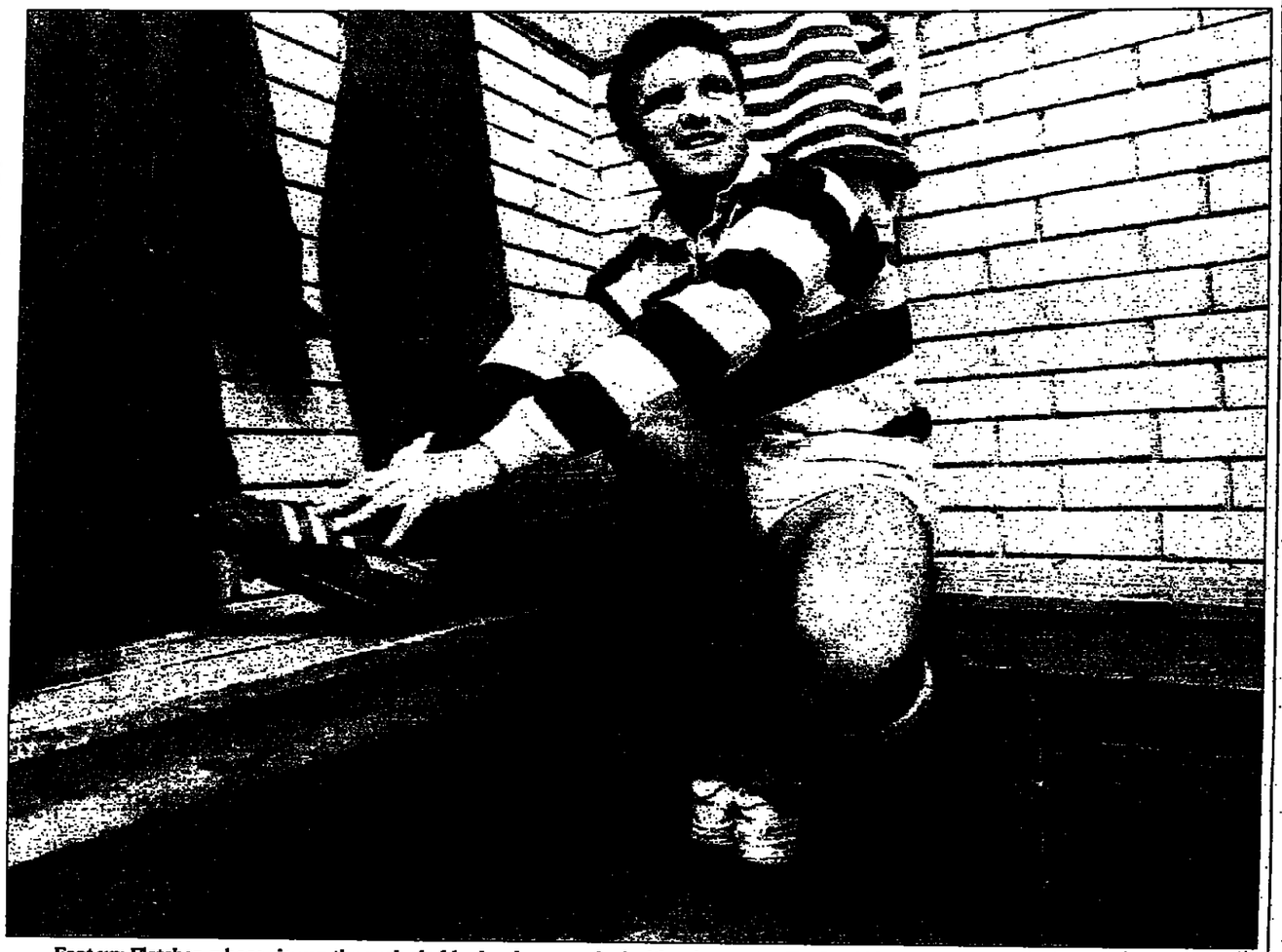
Although David Pears, of Harlequins, has been named to play for the England XV in the R.F. Oakes memorial match at Hartlepool on April 11, he is unlikely to do so. He is still recovering from a groin operation.

The RFU is offering a revised debenture scheme to sustain funding for their new East Stand at Twickenham. Nearly £10 million has been raised from the sale of ten-year debentures and a five-year scheme will take effect from next season, priced at £1,250 (plus VAT). That compares with £2,100 for an individual ten-year debenture or £6,100 for a ten-year business debenture.

ENGLAND XV (for R F Oakes memorial match): D Pears (Harlequins); D O'Leary (Saracens), J Fletcher (Tynedale), P de Glanville (Bath), A Adebayo (Bath); P Grayson (Waterloo), K Bracken (Bristol); M Hynes (Orrell), T Garnett (Wakefield), V Ubogu (Bath), J Hall (Bath), M Redman (Bath), A Blackmore (Bristol), S Ojomoh (Bath), M Rennell (Bedford).

ENGLAND SEVENS SQUAD: A Harriman (Harlequins); A Adebayo (Bath), N Beal (Northampton), M Dawson (Northampton), D Scully (Wakefield), J Cassell (Saracens), L Dallaglio (Wasps), D Hopley (Wasps), T Rodber (Northampton), C Sheasby (Harlequins). Manager: P Rossborough. Coach: L Cusworth.

Fletcher the new centre of attraction


Foot up: Fletcher, whose rise up the rugby ladder has been marked with selection for England's tour of Canada. Photo: Ted Ditchburn



The north often produces fine prospects. **David Hands** takes a look at England's latest recruit

With a frequency that defies coincidence, the north throws up centres of quality. Not all of them make it to international level, as Will Carling did from Durham University or Bryan Barley before him from Wakefield, but they emerge from unheralded surroundings — the Yorkshireman, Steve Burnhill, who toured South Africa in 1984 with England, Graham Childs, from Northern, who visited Argentina in 1990, and now John Fletcher.

Fletcher, from Tynedale, is in the 30-strong England squad to play five matches in Canada in May and June. He can count on further exposure later in the year since England A, an Emerging Players XV and the North all have matches against New Zealand. The boy from Haydon Bridge has come a long way.

It was at the local high school that Fletcher, a late-comer to rugby after taking an early interest in football, first attracted attention, not perhaps as much as he should. Although he played in a final England colts trial, he did not make the national squad at that, or at under-21 level. But in his own neck of the woods he stood out, playing at stand-off half, centre or full back as required.

Selection for Northumberland Schools brought him into contact with Alan Old, the former England stand-off, who has seen him develop in the senior county side, too.

Old is anxious that too much should not be expected of Fletcher too soon, but has no doubts about his capacity to handle the additional demands which will be made of him, even in a season which has been affected by back and knee injuries.

"He is sharp, very fit and very good in the physical sense," Old said. "You wouldn't describe him as tremendously powerful in the Carling sense, but he's a very good defender and strong in the tackle. Above all, he's not a stereotyped player, which is one of the beauties of not playing first division rugby every week.

"Some of his skills have been left to be developed, and are still developing. He is going to get better. His fitness will improve in relationship to the level he finds himself playing at."

Tynedale is fifth division, from where Fletcher, 22, and a compact 5ft 10in and 13st 3lb, was plucked for the North's divisional squad last autumn.

"It was a surprise to be included in the divisional squad and then to get a game for them [the victory over London] was great," Fletcher, who works as a stonemason for a local building firm, said.

"Things have gone well for me this season," he added with a degree of understatement which Old believes is typical of a player who made his senior debut for Tynedale at 16.

His first appearance in an England jersey will be for the team that plays in the R F Oakes memorial match at Hartlepool Rovers on April 11. He will not, Old says, be overawed and he hopes that Fletcher, if he is to advance further in the game, will not be obliged to leave the northeast for one of the first division clubs who have been making overtures.

"I haven't really thought about that because I would only require a 30-day qualification period, jumping from north one," Fletcher said. Don Rutherford, the Rugby Football Union technical director, who is from the same part of the world, does not believe Fletcher need be forced to move away. "Why should he?" Rutherford said. "He has been identified. He doesn't seem to be doing too badly. It's true that many players enjoy the glamour of appearing for certain clubs, but I think we will find club loyalty beginning to reassert itself in a couple of seasons." Beginning, perhaps, at Tynedale.

TOUR PARTY: Backs: A Buzza (Wasps), D Pears (Harlequins), A Adebayo (Bath), N Beal (Northampton), S Hackney (Leicester), C Oti (Wasps), G Childs (Wasps), J Fletcher (Tynedale), P de Glanville (Bath), D Hopley (Wasps), P Challinor (Harlequins), P Grayson (Waterloo), S Bates (Wasps), M Dawson (Northampton). Forwards: D Garforth (Leicester), M Hynes (Orrell), G Rowntree (Leicester), V Ubogu (Bath), K Dunn (Wasps), J Olver (Northampton, capt), A Blackmore (Bristol), M Johnson (Leicester), N Redman (Bath), A Snow (Harlequins), N Back (Leicester), J Hall (Bath), S Ojomoh (Bath), T Rodber (Northampton), M Greenwood (Wasps), D Ryan (Wasps). Manager: P Rossborough. Coaches: M Stephen, K Richardson. Doctor: P Jackson. Physiotherapist: S Kenny.

Itinerary: May: 22 v British Colombia (Victoria); 26 v British Colombia XV (Vancouver); 29 v Canada (Vancouver). June: 2 v Ontario (Toronto); 5 v Canada (Nepean).

Britain exceed expectations

FROM NORMAN DE MESQUITA IN EINDHOVEN

THE Great Britain ice hockey team came to Holland looking to consolidate its position in pool B of the world championships. As the coach, Alex Dampier, said, after Britain had won their third match in as many starts, all of them against the favoured sides in the group: "Things have not gone according to plan. We had hoped to be able to play some golf, but as we are still in contention we must continue to concentrate on the hockey."

He was being jocular but there was a serious side to what he said and it is obvious that all the players are taking the event extremely seriously.

In the first game against Poland, the British team was much the better prepared. The Poles seemed not to know what style to adopt, whereas Britain's players had a plan and stuck to it.

In the second game, against Denmark, a disciplined defensive performance, backed by superlative goaltending from John McCrone, ensured a thrilling 4-0 victory against one of the teams that was expected to give Britain a great deal of trouble.

Then, on Sunday once again, discipline and attention to detail saw Britain through 5-4 against Japan, the fastest team in the group.

This afternoon, the game against Bulgaria should be a formality on previous form, but tomorrow's game against the host country, also unbeaten after three games, should decide the group and determine whether Great Britain, after an absence of 45 years, will be on the fringe of competing for the Olympic Games.

Table

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Holland	3	3	0	33	3	6
Great Britain	3	3	0	13	7	6
Poland	3	2	1	37	5	4
Japan	3	2	1	19	7	4
Denmark	2	1	1	6	5	2
Romania	3	0	3	3	25	0
Bulgaria	3	0	3	2	26	0
China	2	0	2	2	36	0

Price presents Masters credentials

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FLORIDA

NICK Price, the man remembered for coming second a lot in the Eighties, proved himself a winner for the Nineties when he won the Players' Championship at Sawgrass on Sunday with a final round of 67, five under par. The reigning United States PGA champion was five shots ahead of Bernhard Langer and six ahead of Greg Norman and Gil Morgan.

His total of 270, 18 under par, was a tournament record, earned him $450,000, a spot in the Johnnie Walker world championship in Jamaica in December, moved him up to second place on the United States money list and third in the Sony world rankings. Most of all, it showed there was now nothing fragile about Price's game and that his victory in the PGA Championship last August had turned him from a competent also-ran into that rarity — a nice guy with a champion's mentality.

"I couldn't have played any better," Price, 36, said. "I can't remember four days of driving the ball as well as I did this week. The pressure was unbelievable, to sleep on the lead every night is very strenuous, but my game stood up to everything that was thrown at it. I felt so good out there."

Price led Langer, Norman and Mark O'Meara by a shot after three rounds, but O'Meara started with a birdie three to join Price on 13 under par. Price then birdied the 2nd to regain the lead, which he kept until the end, settling his nerves with what he called "in the circumstances, the greatest shot I ever hit in my life" at the 4th.

He pushed his drive into the face of a waste bunker and, although he was only 95 yards from the pin, he had an awkward stance and knew that if he mishit the ball slightly it would end up in the water and he would probably have a double bogey six on his card. He hit it to two feet and that was almost that. A run of three birdies in four holes from the 9th gave Price a four-shot lead, which he increased to five with four holes to play before surviving a late rally from Norman.

Price will be taking this week off, to relax before Augusta and celebrate his victory here. Last week, David Leadbetter, his coach, said prophetically "You're going to catch fire soon" and the Zimbabwean's main worry was how he could keep the magic for the Masters.

"I'm really in a dilemma, having played so well here," he said. "You don't need any extra pressure on you at Augusta, and I just hope I can take the game that I've got now to Georgia."

LEADING FINAL SCORES (US unless stated): 270: N Price (Zim), 64, 68, 71, 67. 275: B Langer (Ger), 65, 66, 70, 74. 278: G Norman (Aus), 66, 70, 68, 72; G Morgan, 68, 71, 72, 67. 277: M O'Meara, 67, 71, 69, 73. 278: N Ozaki (Japan), 72, 68, 68, 70; R Medlate, 68, 71, 68, 71; K Green 70, 67, 69, 72; P Azinger 68, 69, 68, 73. 279: T Watson, 70, 72, 69, 68. 280: D Forsman, 71, 67, 73, 69; T Leitman, 69, 73, 69, 69; M Hubler, 71, 67, 72, 70; J Edwards 66, 69, 72, 73; P Stewart 70, 70, 66, 74. British scores: 288: I Woosnam, 71, 70, 69, 78.

Swede breaks through

HELEN Alfredsson, of Sweden, won the Nabisco Dinah Shore, the first major championship of the women's season, at Mission Hills country club in California, on Sunday (Patricia Davies writes).

It was the Swede's first victory on the US tour and indicated that the Solheim Cup victory against the Americans at Dalmahoy last October had sent the Europeans' confidence and self-belief soaring. Alfredsson could afford to drop a shot at the last and still win by two shots from Betsy King, Amy Benz and Tina Barrett, with a total of 284, four under par.

LEADING FINAL SCORES (US unless stated): 284: H Alfredsson (Swe), 69, 71, 72, 72. 286: A Benz, 72, 73, 71, 70. T Barrett, 70, 73, 72, 71. E King, 71, 74, 67, 74. 287: H Stacy, 72, 74, 71, 70; M Barlsotti, 68, 74, 73, 72; D Coe-Jones, 72, 68, 72, 75. 288: N Lopez, 68, 75, 72, 70; B Burton, 73, 73, 68, 74; P Johnson (GB), 74, 68, 72, 74; J Crafter (Aus), 71, 72, 70, 75. Other British scores: 289: L Davies, 72, 72, 73, 72; P Wright, 74, 68, 75, 72.

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Runs to resort	Weather	Temp °C	Last snow fall
AUSTRIA							
Lech	90	165	variable	open	sunny	-5	26/3
(All lifts, runs open. Dry snow on packed base).							
Obergurgl	70	170	good	hard	sunny	-6	28/3
(Dry snow on packed base. Slick patches below mid-station)							
Schladming	15	160	fresh snow	patchy	cloudy	1	29/3
(Fresh snow all levels. Slick patches on low runs. 90% lifts open)							
Seefeld	70	100	good	fair	cloudy	-1	27/3
(Fresh, dry snow above mid-station. 14 of 16 lifts open)							
SWITZERLAND							
Saas Fee	25	260	good	open	sunny	-2	24/3
(Hard base on access runs. Entire area open)							
St Moritz	20	80	fair	closed	fine	0	25/3
(Cover on lower runs thin. Best on glacier)							
Villars	5	20	fair	difficult	sunny	0	28/3
(Spring snow on top runs. Thin cover on lower)							
Wengen	10	100	good	open	fine	-2	26/3
(Cold temperatures keeping snow dry on all runs. 20 lifts open)							
ITALY							
Courmayeur	30	150	firm	open	fine	-6	24/3
(Best snow at Lago Chercuit. Soft snow on lower)							
Livigno	25	95	good	open	clear	-5	25/3
(Artificial snow in use. Extensive choice available)							
Madesimo	20	140	compact	open	windy	0	19/3
(Patchy on lower. Varied choice at Valle di Lei)							
FRANCE							
Flaine	10	245	packed	open	sunny	-2	25/3
(Cold, dry snow above mid-station. Hardpacked on lower)							
Isola 2000	20	50	fair	open	sunny	-2	25/3
(Hard snow on all runs. 16 lifts and 22 runs open)							
Les Deux Alpes	10	180	fair	closed	sunny	-2	25/3
(Artificial snow in resort. Snow hard am, softening pm all runs)							
Méribel	10	160	fair	closed	sunny	-2	25/3
(Skiing above 1,700m only. Best in Mottaret, 82% lifts open)							
Val d'Isère	100	185	good	open	sunny	-2	25/3
(Cold, dry snow all sectors. Pistes complete down to La Daille)							

Information supplied by Ski Hotline

هكذا من الأجل

BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast (24905)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (75624214)
9.05 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk talks to Jackie Collins (s) (5704837) **9.45 Ross King** (s) (4090566)
10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (4425009) **10.05 Playdays** (s) (7723769)
10.30 Good Morning . . . with Anne and Nick. Family magazine series (s) (56380856)
12.15 Pebble Mill. Among Judi Spiers's guests today is singer and actor David Essex (s) (6028740) **12.55 Regional News** and weather (29347479)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (68276)
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (20548027) **1.50 Taken for a Ride.** A look at car crime (35393837)
2.20 Film: Catch Me A Spy (1971) starring Kirk Douglas, Marlene Jobert, Trevor Howard and Tom Courtney. Cold War espionage drama directed by Dick Clement. (Ceefax) (9688566)
3.50 Pinocchio. Animation (r) (3506030) **4.10 The New Yogi Bear Show** (r) (1263740) **4.20 The Worst Day Of My Life.** Comic stories in which children find themselves in awkward predicaments. (Ceefax) (9823108) **4.45 The Flawed Glass.** Joanna Roth with the second of a five-part story (s) (3439585)
5.00 Newsround (2138905) **5.10 Billy Webb's Amazing Story.** Episode five (r). (Ceefax) (s) (4931059)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) (843769). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Anna Ford. (Ceefax) Weather (547)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (127). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Holiday. Includes reports from the Gambia and Andalucia. (Ceefax) (s) (5634)
7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (951)



Runaway: Stephen Lord as Darwin (8.00pm)

8.00 Luv. Harold's concern over his son Darwin's four-day disappearance is compounded when wife Terese announces she has found a lump on her breast. Starring Michael Angelis, Sue Johnston and Stephen Lord. (Ceefax) (s) (4382). Wales: The Noble Guide
8.30 A Question of Sport. This week Ian Botham and Bill Beaumont are joined by Richard Dunwoody, David Phillips, Adrian Moorhouse and Paul Hodkinson. (Ceefax) (s) (2419)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. (Ceefax) *Regional news and weather (6721)*
9.30 Film: The Mean Season (1985) starring Kurt Russell and Mariel Hemingway. Tough thriller exploring the themes of news creation and news manipulation through a Miami reporter assigned to *a serial killer case. Directed by Phillip Borsos.* (Ceefax) (101011). Northern Ireland: Harry Enfield 10.00 Country Times 10.25 Atlantic Bridgehead; Wales: Week In Week Out 10.00 Luv 10.30 Film: The Mean Season
11.10 Film 93 With Barry Norman. Includes Tom Brooks reporting on last night's Oscar awards (s) (753382)
11.40 Judy Garland: The Concert Years (r) (345127). Wales: 12.10am Film 93 12.40 News
1.05am Weather (4634054). Ends at **1.10**
2.15 BBC Select: Executive Business Club. Scrambled (808561) **3.15-3.45 Legal Network Television.** Scrambled (14764)

BBC2

6.45 Open University: Science — Volcanic Island (4845828) **7.10** Biological Barriers (3346856) **7.35** *Geology: Mapping the Cheddar Gorge and the Mendips* (7452059) **8.00 Breakfast News** (3900092) **8.15 Westminster** (4153634)
9.00 Film: Guilty? (1956, b/w) starring John Justin and Donald Wolfit. A lawyer turns sleuth in order to clear *a war heroine accused of murder. Directed by* Edmond Greville (29011)
10.30 Film: Passage Home (1955, b/w) starring Peter Finch, Diane Cilento and Anthony Steel. Emotions run high when a woman passenger arrives on a *freighter. Directed by Roy Baker (87455699)*
12.10 In the Making. Craftsmen from the Whitechapel Bell Foundry (r) (6513295)
12.30 In at the Deep End. Paul Heiney tries his hand at female impersonating (r) (1004030)
1.20 Johnson and Friends *(r) (s) (87581858)* **1.30 Orville and Cuddles** (r) (86259547) **1.35 Better Badminton** (r) (35307030)
2.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (67135383) **2.05 Colony of Survivors.** A wildlife documentary on *the herring gull population (79761450)* **2.30 See Hear!** For the hearing impaired (r) (s) (160)
3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (3395276) followed by **Westminster Live** (5829547) **3.50 News** (Ceefax), regional news and weather (2834837)
4.00 Film: Caught (1949, b/w) starring James Mason, Robert Ryan and Barbara Bel Geddes. Drama about an ill-treated millionaire's wife who leaves him for an impoverished doctor. Directed by Max Ophuls (7029214)
5.25 Grand Prix. Highlights from Brazil (r) (6088818)
6.00 Film: The Desert Song (1953) starring Kathryn Grayson and Gordon MacRae. Glossy version of the Sigmund Romberg light operetta, directed by Bruce Humberstone (89648108)
7.50 Education Special: Little Englanders. A look at the reasons why a special course, designed to make foreign languages appealing to children, was cancelled. (Ceefax) (639566)
8.30 Secret Nature: Turn of the Tide. Andrew Cooper continues his exploration of the English Channel and visits the Exe estuary in Devon. (Ceefax) (s) (1059)
9.00 Quantum Leap. Off-beat science fiction series. (Ceefax) (s) (118479)



Pest control: Doreen, Marjorie, Elsie (9.50pm)

9.50 40 Minutes: The Lady Killers. *(Ceefax) (s) See* Choice (426301)
10.30 Newsnight with Jeremy Paxman (536547)
11.15 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine (s) (687905) **11.55 Weather** (302092)
12.00 Environment. *A documentary about an area of* north-west Ontario that looks so like the moon that Nasa used it to train astronauts (2857073). Ends at **12.25am**

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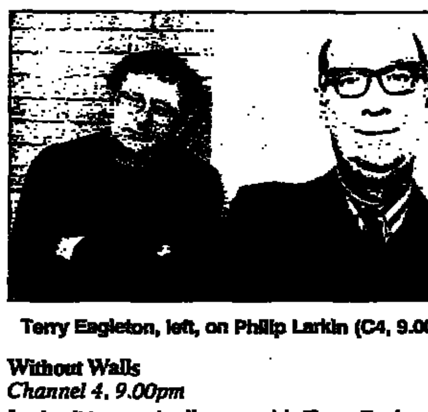
CHOICE

Viewpoint 93: Fields Apart
ITV, 10.40pm

Lincoln's Inn Fields is an attractive central London square which houses the Queen's solicitors and the Royal College of Surgeons. It has also in the past couple of years been home to some 150 people who have no homes and sleep rough. Alan James's film charts growing tensions between these reluctant neighbours. Residents say the square is becoming a squalid dump. The homeless retort that they have nowhere else to go. The matter comes to a head when the residents threaten to take Camden council to court. The film avoids taking sides. If anything it invites sympathy with the homeless, who include some forceful and articulate characters. The tragedy is that many of them seem beyond reasonable help.

40 Minutes: The Lady Killers
BBC2, 9.50pm

They work for Manchester council and their business is pest control, ridding the city's houses and rivers of *cockroaches, rats and maggots and other* unspeakables. The novelty is that they are women. More than that, they thoroughly enjoy the job and would feel deprived if it ever came to an end. Emma Hindley's film is a tale of happy fulfilment. Doreen worked in a clothing factory, Marjorie in a mill and Elsie in a series of part-time jobs and in each case the switch to fighting pests has been the making of them. Some of their experiences, mind you, are pretty stomach-churning and it is best to get the meal out of the way before sitting down to watch. But the film's unlikely message is that pest control is exciting.



Terry Eagleton, left, on Philip Larkin (C4, 9.00pm)

Without Walls
Channel 4, 9.00pm

In the *J'Accuse* slot literary critic Terry Eagleton puts the knife into Philip Larkin. Thanks to posthumously released letters it is known that Larkin hated foreigners, children, women (except *Mrs Thatcher*), the working class and the poor. Eagleton reserves most of his bile for Larkin's poetry which he describes as sick, wheezing, banal and full of self-pity. In the second item Norman Wisdom submits to a mock obituary. It is a shrewd appraisal with a level of analysis rare on television. The film lecturer Andy Medhurst is particularly acute on Wisdom's place in post war British comedy. The Eagleton rôle goes to Benny Green, who calls Wisdom a routine comic definitely not to be compared with Chaplin.

Come On Down and Out
Channel 4, 8.00pm

One of the more contentious entries to Channel 4's Gimme Shelter season is this game show in which three homeless people compete for a dream house. If this sounds like tastelessness, then on the whole it is not. The idea, clearly, is to send up the game show format with its appeal to greed and to make the contrast between television-created dreams and the real world outside. The questions are designed to underline their realities, dealing with such matters as the life expectancy of the homeless and what they are most likely to die from. All the same you feel uncomfortable about a show which dangles a £160,000 house before unfortunate people, none of whom may win it. **Peter Waymark**

ITV LONDON

6.00 GMTV. Includes news of the Oscar awards ceremony (8323498)
9.25 Jeopardy! *Steve Jones has the answers, the contestants have to provide the questions* (3250363) **9.55 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (7709189)
10.00 The Time . . . The Place . . . (1326214)
10.35 This Morning. Weekday magazine presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley (82415194)
12.10 Wizadora Children's puppet series (6500721)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (Teletext) and weather (4632653) **1.05 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (57837585)
1.15 Home and Away Australian family drama serial (Teletext) (208276) **1.45 A Country Practice** Medical drama set (s) (207547)
2.15 Travel UK. Val Singleton and Chris Packham visit *York, Blackpool and go cycling in the Fens (222856)* **2.45 Families** Drama serial set in the north of England and Australia (s) (9975301)
3.10 ITN News headlines (3306382) **3.15 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (3305653) **3.20 Blockbusters** *General knowledge quiz for* teenagers, presented by Bob Holness (s) (9540924)
3.50 Rod 'n' Emu Animation (r) (2821363) **4.00 Toucan Tecs** (s) (8280059) **4.15 The Dreamstone.** Animated adventures (r) (s) (9811363) **4.40 Finders Keepers** Game show (6204214)
5.10 Home and Away (r). (Teletext) (6019856)
5.40 Early Evening News (Teletext) and weather (460585)
6.00 London Tonight presented by Alastair Stewart and Fiona Foster. (Teletext) (92672)
7.00 Emmerdale (Teletext) (3030)
7.30 Beam and Da Silva. An investigation into the world of London's hit-men (479)
8.00 The Bill: Missing. DI Burnside is assigned to the case of a missing man with the mental age of six. Starring Christopher Ellison (Teletext) (9450)

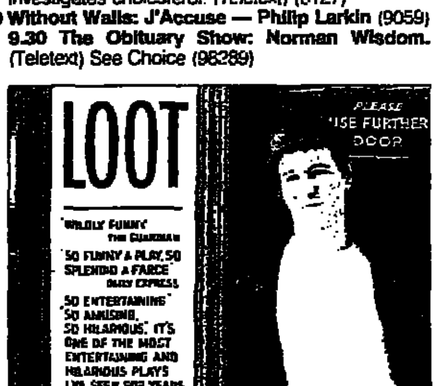


Nature video: Chris Lang, Tim Healy (8.30pm)

8.30 Cut and Run. The *Comedy Playhouse* season continues with Tim Firth's story of a video company commissioned to film badgers on land destined to become a golf course. Starring Tim Healy, Wayne Foskett and Chris Lang. (Teletext) (s) (8585)
9.00 In Suspicious Circumstances introduced by Edward Woodward. *Falling Star* looks at the death of Jazz Age woman that brought the downfall of a politician; *Good as Gold* recreates a series of murders using a bootlace. (Teletext) (2011)
10.00 News at Ten. (Ceefax) Weather (67498) **10.30 London Tonight** (Teletext) and weather (303301)
10.40 Viewpoint 93: Fields Apart. See Choice (665498)
11.40 **Prisoner: Cell Block H.** *Australian drama (668905)*
12.30am Nigel Mansell's IndyCar '93. The first race of the season reviewed (25764)
1.00 The Little Picture Show. Film and video reviews (76696)
2.00 Film: Unearthly Stranger *(1963, b/w) starring* John Neville and Gabriella Licudi. Sci-fi thriller about scientists working on a time-space formula who discover that the new wife of one of them is an alien after their secrets. Directed by John Krish (59702)
3.30 Quiz Night. Pub and club competition (98257)
4.00 The Beat. Music magazine (r) (s) (62764)
5.00 Riviera. Glossy French drama (95702)
5.30 ITN Morning News (70702). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Sesame Street (r) (6750059)
6.45 Dennis. Animated adventures (9834905)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (81127)
9.00 Jayce and the Wheeled Warriors Animation (s) (44547) **9.30 The Batman** (b/w) More 1940s adventures of Gotham City's dynamic duo (r) (6041301) **9.50 Barnaby: The Overdue Dues Blues** *(r) (7791160)*
9.55 Gamesmaster (r) (5250301) **10.30 New Kids On The Block.** Animation (r) (5765818)
10.55 The Miraculous Mellops (r) (5773837) **11.25 The Bunbury Tails** (r) (3726189) **11.30 The Henderson Kids** *(r) (5504)*
12.00 The Parliament Programme (57011)
12.30 Sesame Street. Early-learning series. The guests include Harry Belafonte (27059) **1.30 Chicken Minute.** Children's puppet series (r) (s) (81566)
2.00 Film: Larceny Inc *(1942, b/w) starring Edward* G Robinson and Jane Wyman. Comedy crime caper about a criminal, released from prison, who vows to go straight, but finds that he cannot make ends meet and decides to rob a bank. Directed by *Lloyd Bacon (334160)*
3.40 Gimme Shelter: Raising the Roof. The first of the day's two progress reports from the self-build site (8431905)
3.55 Wealth of Wildfowl. A *Survival* documentary, narrated by Sir Peter Scott, about a narrow piece of land 20 miles long that is home to thousands of birds (r) (1187769)
4.30 Countdown Quiz game. (Teletext) (s) (932)
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show The guests are parents who admit that they have taken a holiday, leaving their children behind. (Teletext) (s) (1786063)
5.50 The Magic Roundabout Classic children's programme, narrated by Nigel Planer (r) (985585)
6.00 Mork and Mindy Comedy starring Robin Williams as an alien befriended by earth girl Pam Dawber (r) (585) **6.30 Eerie, Indiana** Off-beat American fantasy series set in a midwestern town, starring Omri Katz (s) (837)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (862566)
7.50 Gimme Shelter: Caves, Castles and Council Houses. Houses through the ages. This evening — castles (491276)
8.00 Gimme Shelter: Come On Down and Out. (Teletext) (s) See Choice (7092)
8.30 The Pulse. Healthcare series. Emma Freud investigates cholesterol. (Teletext) (6127)
9.00 Without Walls: J'Accuse — Philip Larkin (9059) **9.30 The Obituary Show: Norman Wisdom.** (Teletext) See Choice (98289)



Gary Oldman plays Joe Orton (10.00pm)

10.00 Film: Prick Up Your Ears (1987) starring Gary Oldman and Alfred Molina. Stephen Frears's acclaimed *Film on Four* examining the life of controversial 1960s playwright Joe Orton and his stormy relationship with his lover Kenneth Halliwell. *(Ceefax) (3011)*
12.00 Gimme Shelter: Raising the Roof. The second of the day's up-date on the self-build group (1932238)
12.05am Gimme Shelter: Behind the Rent Strike. The story of the Kirkby, Liverpool, rent strike of 1973 *(1368783)*
1.15 The Nat King Cole Show (b/w). The guests include big band singer Margaret Whiting (r) (27238). Ends at **1.45**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 3.20-3.50 The Young Doctors (9540924) **5.10-5.40** Blockbusters (6019856) **6.00** Home and Away (257214) **6.25-7.00** Anglia News (182547) **7.30-8.00** Food Guide (479) **12.35** Film: Sebastian (632257) **2.30** *The Little Picture Show* (38783) **3.30** ITV Chart Show (40528) **4.30** Riviera (28528) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder (95702)

BORDER
As London except: 3.20-3.50 Sons and Daughters (9540924) **6.00** Lookaround (943) **6.30-7.00** Blockbusters (295) **7.30-8.00** Business First (479) **12.35** Film: Sebastian (632257) **2.30** The Little Picture Show (38783) **3.30** ITV Chart Show (40528) **4.30** Rivera (28528) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder (95702)

CENTRAL
As London except: 1.15 A Country Practice (208276) **1.45-2.15** Home and Away (207547) **3.20-3.50** Shortland Street (9540924) **5.10-5.40** Blockbusters (6019856) **6.00** Home and Away (257214) **6.25-7.00** Central News (182547) **7.30-8.00** The Tuesday Special (479) **11.40** Film: American Dreamer (493924) **1.35** Kojak (3237702) **2.35** The Big E (4283290) **3.25** Sport AM (3838892) **4.25** Jobfinder (8524238) **5.20-5.30** Asian Eye (2441561)

GRANADA
As London except: 1.15 A Country Practice (208276) **1.45-2.15** Home and Away (207547) **2.45-3.10** Gardener's Diary (9975301) **3.20-3.50** Sons and Daughters (9540924) **5.10-5.40** Blockbusters (6019856) **6.00** Home and Away (943) **6.30-7.00** Granada Tonight (295) **7.30-8.00** The Big Green Boat Show (479) **12.35** Film: Sebastian (632257) **2.30** The Little Picture Show (38783) **3.30** ITV Chart Show (40528) **4.30** Rivera (28528) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder (95702)

HTV WEST
As London except: 1.45-2.15 Blockbusters (207547) **3.20-3.50** The Sullivans (9540924) **6.00** HTV News (943) **6.30-7.00** Good Health! (295) **7.30-8.00** Country Watch (479) **12.35** Film: Sebastian (632257) **2.30** The Little Picture Show (38783) **3.30** ITV Chart Show (40528) **4.30** Riviera (28528) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder (95702)

HTV WALES
As HTV West except: 6.00 Wales at Six **6.30-7.00** A Case of Wine **7.30-8.00** A Welsh Life **11.40-12.35** Boxing

MERIDIAN
As London except: 3.20-3.50 Young Doctors (9540924) **6.00** Meridian Tonight (943) **6.30-7.00** Blockbusters (295) **7.30-8.00** *I Can Do That (479)* **11.40** Along the Pilgrim's Way (519160) **12.10-12.30** Coach (4238851) **5.00-5.30** Freescreen (95702)

TYNE TEES
As London except: 3.20-3.50 The Young Doctors (9540924) **6.00** Tyne Tees Today (943) **6.30-7.00** Blockbusters (295) **7.30-8.00** Billy (479) **11.40** Ice Hockey: Sheffield Steelers v Durham Wasps (918540) **12.35** Comedy Tonight (8127108) **1.00** The Little Picture Show (76696) **2.00** 60 Minutes (5792986) **2.55** Countdown (8636528) **3.55** Disaster Chronicles (61487615)

ULSTER
As London except: 1.45-2.15 Fair City (207547) **6.00-7.00** UTV Live at Six (92672) **7.30-8.00** Bon Voyage (479) **11.40** Crime Story (918540) **12.35** Film: Sebastian (632257) **2.30** The Little Picture Show (38783) **3.30** ITV Chart Show (40528) **4.30** Riviera (28528) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder (95702)

WESTCOUNTRY
As London except: 1.45-2.15 Blockbusters (207547) **3.20-3.50** A Country Practice (9540924) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (92672) **7.30-8.00** On the Road to the Islands (479) **12.35** Film: Sebastian (632257) **2.30** The Little Picture Show (38783) **3.30** ITV Chart Show (40528) **4.30** Riviera (28528) **5.00-5.30** Jobfinder (95702)

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 3.20-3.50 The Young Doctors (9540924) **6.00** Calendar (952769) **6.30-7.00** Blockbusters (295) **7.30-8.00** Billy (479) **11.40** Ice Hockey: Sheffield Steelers v Durham Wasps (918540) **12.35** Comedy Tonight (8127108) **1.00** The Little Picture Show (76696) **2.00** 60 Minutes (5292986) **2.55** Countdown (8636528) **3.55** Disaster Chronicles (61487615) **4.20-5.30** Jobfinder

S4C
Starts: *7.00 The Big Breakfast (81127)* **9.00** Jayce and the Wheeled Warriors (44547) **9.30** The Batman (6041301) **9.50** Barnaby: Overdue Dues Blues (7791160) **9.55** Gamesmaster (5250301) **10.30** New Kids on the Block (5765818) **10.55** Miraculous Mellops (5773837) *11.25 The Bunbury Tales* (3726189) **11.30** The Henderson Kids (5504) **12.00** The Parliament Programme (57011) **12.30** Slot Meithrin (82295) **1.00** Sesame Street (70460) **2.00** The Late Late Show (55214) **3.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (5792382) **3.55** Happy Days (4061276) **4.25** Slot 23 (3051363) **5.00** Countdown (8108) **5.30** Moviewatch (672) **6.00** News (600382) **6.10** Heno (219030) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (1672) **7.30** Pr Gad (721) **8.00** Stell (7092) **8.30** News (365547) **8.55** Take Care (771450) **9.00** Teenage Health Freak (9059) **9.30** Citizen 2000 (98289) **10.00** The Golden Girls (58740) **10.30** Come On Down and Out (34160) **11.00** The Avengers (61363) **12.00** J'accuse (77615) **12.30** Norman Wisdom (7577649) **12.55** Raising the Roof (3931257) **1.05** Close

SATELLITE

SKY ONE
6.00am The DJ Kat Show (36167924) **8.40** Lamb Chops Play-a-Long (6617030) **9.10** Cartoons (2034547) **9.30** The Pyramid Game (44059) **10.00** Strike it Rich (70547) **10.30** The Bold and the Beautiful (89011) **11.00** *Hart to Hart (89160)* **12.00** *Falcon Crest* (27382) **1.00pm** E Street (99996) **1.30** Another World (4852127) **2.15** Santa Barbara (853740) **2.45** Maude (852011) **3.15** Different Strokes (859924) **3.45** The DJ Kat Show (5276653) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (4547) **6.00** Games World (1189) **6.30** E Street (5769) **7.00** Rescue (5276) **7.30** Family Ties (4653) **8.00** Murphy Brown (4624) **8.30** Anything But Love (3059) **9.00** The Trials of Rosie O'Neill (66295) **10.00** Designing Women (81092) **10.30** Star Trek: The Next Generation (29672) **11.30** Studs (85289) **12.00** Pages from Skytext

SKY NEWS
News on the hour.
6.00am Sunrise (18856) **8.30** News and Business Report (514092) **9.30** Nightline (35301) **10.00** Dayline (78189) **10.30** Beyond 2000 (88789) **11.30** Business Report (58671) **12.30pm** News and Business Report (82585) **1.30** Good Morning America (83214) **2.30** Parliament Live (9565092) **3.15** Parliament Live (2253856) **4.30** News and Business Report (1566) **5.00** Live at Five (98653) **8.30** News and Business Report (92189) **7.30** Target (2295) **10.30** Nightline (27214) **11.30** ABC News (91301) **12.30am** ABC News (15621) **2.30** Target (56211) **3.30** ABC News (33493) **4.30** Beyond 2000 (31561) **5.30-6.00** ABC News (64798)

SKY MOVIES PLUS
6.00am Showcase (2458030)
10.00 Infidelity (1987): Kirstie Alley and Lee Horsley separate after losing a baby (19363)
12.00 Support Your Local Gunfighter (1971): Western comedy starring James Garner and Suzanne Pleshette (85479)
2.00pm Aces High (1976). First world war drama starring Malcolm McDowell (50634)
4.00 **Shipwrecked** *(1991): Stian Smestad* embarks on a perilous sea voyage (9479)
6.00 Infidelity (as 10am) (70498)
8.00 Backdraft (1991): Kurt Russell and William Baldwin as fire-fighters (57368276)
10.15 New Jack City (1991): Maverick police officers Judd Nelson and Ice-T pursue drug lord Wesley Snipes (515450)
11.55 The House where Evil Dwells (1982): An American couple moves into a Japanese house (359295)
1.25am Killer Klowns from Outer Space (1988): Alien vampires disguise themselves as demonic clowns (393493)
3.00 Cover-Up (1991): Dolph Lundgren discovers a plot within the CIA (260280)
4.35 Preppies (1990): *Three girls plot revenge on their unfaithful boyfriends* (2157238). *Ends at 6.00*

SKY MOVIES GOLD
6.15pm And Now Tomorrow (1944, b/w): Deaf socialite Loretta Young falls in love with her doctor, Alan Ladd (55899769)
8.00 Lookin' to Get Out (1982). Jon Voight and Burt Young play hustlers (35363)
10.00 My Bloody Valentine (1981): A psychopathic coalminer murders teenagers (83108). Ends at 11.30

THE MOVIE CHANNEL
6.30am The Earth Is Mine (1959): Claude Rains as a Napa Valley vintner (75679214)
8.40 Dot and the Whale: Adventures of the heroine and her animal friends (7793027)
10.00 Man of a Thousand Faces (1957): Biopic of Lon Chaney (16612721)
12.10pm The List of Adrian Messenger (1963): George C. Scott tracks an elusive killer (372295)
2.00 Which Way Home (1991) Cybill Shepherd attempts to smuggle orphans out of Cambodia (487189)
4.30 Dot and the Whale (as 8.40am) (87498)
6.00 Star Trek — The Next Generation: Unification (1991): Captain Picard meets Spock on the planet Romulus (61740)
8.00 The 65th Academy Awards — Abridged Version (73585)
10.00 Henry and June (1990): Drama about the relationship between Henry Miller, his wife June and Anaïs Nin (43364059)
12.20am Pump Up the Volume (1990): Christian Slater as a pirate radio DJ (819344)
2.05 Warm Summer Rain (1989) A couple spend a week together (1951325)
3.30 You Can't Take It With You (1938, b/w): Frank Capra comedy starring Jean Arthur (43920324). Ends at **5.35**

SKY SPORTS
6.30am Morning Stretch (21295) **7.00** Rugby League Academy (49189) **9.00** Morning Stretch (67011) **9.30** Trucks 'n' Tractor Power (94653) **10.00** *World Sports Special* (12547) **10.30** Boots 'n' All (78419) **11.30** Stretch (70924) **12.00** Muscle Night (84276) **1.00pm** Fishing the West (42276) **1.30** Boots 'n' All (28914) **2.30** One-Day Cricket: West Indies v Pakistan (6388419) **6.00** Soccer News (936479) **6.03** Wrestling (73160) **7.00** One-Day Cricket (63769) **9.00** The Footballers' Football Show (14856) **11.00** One-Day Cricket (92127) **12.30pm** Motor World (14696) **1.00** World Sports Special (20324) **1.30-3.30am** German League Football (70431)

EUROSPORT
7.30am Step (57108) **8.00** Tennis (37856) **10.00** Skiing (46092) **11.00** Athletics (66856) **12.00** *Eurogoals* (53112) **1.00pm** *Tennis* (272479) **4.00** Skiing (86943) **5.00** Eurogoals (2585) **6.00** Eurofun (9127) **6.30** News (1739) **7.00** Tennis (58837) **9.00** Boxing (18301) **10.00** Snooker (88160) **11.00** Ski Jumping (47721) **12.00** News (39493)

UK GOLD
6.00am Rainbow (52663479) **6.15** Button Moon (52651634) **6.30** The All New Popeye Show (8465740) **7.00** Beverly Hills Teens (2882837) **7.30** *Neighbours (2804672)* **8.00** Sons and Daughters (1411382) **8.30** EastEnders (1410653) **9.00** The Bill (1401905) **9.30** When the Boat Comes In (6413837) **10.30** Casualty (3824905) **11.30** To the Manor Born (3551009) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (1421769) **12.30pm** Neighbours (6623295) **1.00** EastEnders (2891108) **1.30** The Bill (6622566) **2.00** Porridge (2342295) **2.30** Bread (5045769) **3.00** Dallas (8951045) **4.00** Dynasty (2122230) **5.00** Candid Camera (2333547) **5.30** Give Us a Clue (5049585) **6.00** Neighbours (5046498) **6.30** When the Boat Comes In (1313547) **7.30** Porridge (5026634) **8.00** EastEnders (2362059) **8.30** Bread (2341566) **9.00** Casualty (2110127) **10.00** The Bill (1422498) **10.30** The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy (1408818) **11.00** The Kenny Everett Television Show (5551289) **11.30** Dr Who and The Saurians (8452276) **12.00** Film: The Amelo Affair (1947) starring John Hodiak (4758325) **1.30-2.00am** Videos (7567035)

THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL
6.00am Stories Without Words (76818) **6.30** Non-Stop Cartoon Capers (9299634) **7.15** Kissy Fur (581566) **8.45** Jack in the Box (333276) **10.45** Stories Without Words (280382) **11.15** Non-Stop Cartoon Capers (9376585) **12.00** Grasshopper Island (94189) **12.30pm** Mask (38011) **1.00** Jack in the Box (98566) **3.00** Kissy Fur (14382) **4.00** Spill and Hercules (5566) **4.30** T-Rex (4450) **5.00** Pugwall's Summer (8566) **5.30** Saved by the Bell (8030) **6.00-7.00** Fame (46030)

RADIO 3

6.35am Open University: Modern Literature — Home and Abroad **6.55** Weather
7.00 On Air, with Andrew McGregor, including Handel (Sonata à 5 in B flat); Stravinsky (Octet); Brahms (Three Sacred Choruses, Op 37); Mozart (String Quintet in C minor, K406)
9.00 Composer of the Week: Rachmaninov — Operatic Adventures. The Dream, Op 8 No 5; The Soldier's Wife, Op 8 No 6; Dungeon Monologue, The Miserly Knight; Prelude; *Love Scene; Epilogue,* Francesca da Rimini, Act 2
10.00 Morning Sequence: Jan van Lubiin, arr Kee (Old Dances); Khachaturian (Trio for clarinet, violin and piano); *Rachmaninov (Rhapsody on a* theme of Paganini); Malcolm Williamson (Pas de quatre); Lars-Erik Larsson (Concertino for trombone and strings, Op 45 No 7); Schoenberg (Pierrot Lunaire — excerpt); Haydn, arr Triebensee (Symphony No 92 in F, Oxford); Piet Kee (More Organ Playing: Farewell, Confrontation)
12.00 Fairytales and Fantasies: Norbert Burgmüller (Duo in E flat, Op 15); Schumann (Märchenbilder, Op 115); Rossini (Fantasia for clarinet and piano); Schumann (Märchenerzählungen, Op 132) (r)
1.00pm News 1.05 BBC Philharmonic under Edward Downes performs Glazunov *(Overture, Carnaval); Dvořák* (Violin Concerto in A minor: Tasmin Little); Respighi (Fountains of Rome; Feste Romane) (r)
2.35 1991 Esztergom International Guitar Festival: Bach (Partita in C minor, BWV 997: Frederic Zigante, guitar); Blas Sanchez (Grave cadenzioso and Rio Grande); Sor (Variations on Marlbroug s'en va t'en guerre); Tarrega (Fantasia on themes from La Traviata: Krzysztof Pelech, guitar)
3.20 Old Hall Manuscript: Orlando Consort performs a selection of 15th-century motets and mass movements (r)
3.55 Mozart: Piano Concerto No 25 in C, K503 (Pascal Rogé; BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under George Hurst) (r)
4.30 Bluebird Blues: The fourth of ten programmes in which Francis Wilford-Smith traces *the development of the blues* in the thirties and forties
5.00 In Tune: David Owen Norris with music and news
7.30 Pebble Mill, live from Studio One, Birmingham. Raphael Wallfisch, cello, and John York, piano, perform Saint-Saëns (Cello Sonata No 1 in C minor); Lekeu (Sonata in G). **8.25** Raphael Wallfisch talks to Chris Wines. **8.45** Martinů (Cello Sonata No 1); Chopin (Cello Sonata in G minor)
9.40 The Wolpert Conversations: Tapeworm Quadrilles. Lewis Wolpert talks to the Nobel *Prize-winning* chemist Roald Hoffman
10.05 Musica Viva: Bavarian RSO under Cristobal Halffter performs Nicolaus Richter de Vroe (Shibuya Movements); *Cristobal Halffter (Dortmund Variations)*
10.45 Night Waves: The arts programme reviews the musical *City of Angels*
11.30 Beecham Conducts Haydn: RPO under Sir Thomas Beecham performs Symphony No 100 in G, Military; and Symphony No 101 in D, Clock
12.30-12.35am News

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast **6.00** News Briefing, incl **6.03** Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **6.45** Business News **6.55, 7.55** Weather **7.25, 8.25** Sports News **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News
9.05 Call Nick Ross: 071-580 4444. Lines open from 8am
10.00-10.30 News; Rabbi Blue in Retreat (FM only): See Choice
10.00 Daily Service (LW only)
10.15 The Bible (LW only): Psalms. Read by David Suchet (3/6)
10.30 Woman's Hour talks to the poet, diarist and novelist May Sarton; discusses new laws affecting estate agents' purple prose; considers women refugees; and asks what women gain by playing bridge. Incl **11.00 News**
11.30 Medicine Now, with Geoff Watts
12.00 You and Yours
12.25pm Best of My Word! chaired by Michael O'Donnell **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with James Naughtie
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping
2.00 News; Thirty-Minute Theatre: Love to Madelaine, by Craig Warner. Madelaine (Miranda Richardson) is loved by two men: her husband Brian (Richard E. Grant) and her lover (Philip Davis) (r)
2.30 Richard Baker Compares Notes with Andrew Davis, chief conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, and Leonard Slatkin, musical director and conductor of the St Louis Symphony Orchestra
3.00-4.00 **News; *Prime Minister's Questions*** (LW only)
3.00 Cause Célèbre (FM only): Jenni Mills talks to Jim and Jane Swire, whose daughter, Flora, was on board Pan Am *flight 103 which crashed at* Lockerbie in 1988 (r)
3.30 Punters (FM only), with Susan Marling
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope reviews the novel *In the Place of Fallen Leaves,* by Tim Pears; talks to the poet and political thinker June Jordan; and watches artists working with water
4.45 Short Story: Suspicion. The final part of Deborah Moggach's story. Read by Barbara Flynn
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
7.00 The Board Game: Nigel Cassidy chairs the executive quiz. With Peter Day, Richard Jeffrey, Janette Rutterford and Nigel Whittaker
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 File on 4: Mark Halliley reports
8.00 Science Now (r)
8.30 Contemporaries of Christ: Patricia Scotland, QC is the *fifth of six people in their early* thirties to reflect on the Passion
8.45 In Touch: Why "blind urban guerillas" are needed to cope with community care
9.15 Kaleidoscope (r)
9.45 The Financial World Tonight 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Richard Kershaw
10.45 A Book at Bedtime: The Inseparable Twins, by Anatoly Pristavkin. John Hurt reads the seventh of ten parts
11.00 The Radio Programme, with Laurie Taylor (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament
12.00-12.43 News, incl **12.27** Weather **12.33** Shipping **12.43** As World Service (LW only)

Vitality! *Radio 2, 9.00pm.*
Ivor Novello's lyrics for his song "Vitality!" pay tribute to all those stage performers who rely heavily on their exuberance. Of this breed, Cicely Courtneidge was the *ne plus ultra.* It was written in the stars that when she sang "Vitality!" in Novello's *Gay's the Word* in 1950, it would become the signature tune that would replace her earlier hit "There's Something About a Soldier". Michael Bevis has written, and presents, a life of Courtneidge that neither sells her artistry short nor over-inflates her reputation.

Rabbi Blue in Retreat *(FM only). Radio 4, 10.00am.*
The title suggests that Radio 4's all but resident rabbi has suffered some kind of setback. On the contrary, as one of the partakers of spiritual food at a weekend feast, his progress towards enlightenment is advanced. The Ammerdown Centre for the Promotion of Reconciliation and Peace organises retreats for Christians and Jews. They sing, pray, and respectfully tread the common ground their differing faiths share. Nothing but good can come of such ecumenical initiatives. **Peter Davalle**

RADIO 1
FM Stereo and MW. **4.00am** Bruno Brookes with The Early Breakfast Show (FM only) **6.00** Simon Mayo **9.00** Simon Bates **12.30pm** Newsbeat **12.45** Jakie Brambles **3.00** *Steve Wright in the Afternoon* **6.00** Mark Goodier's Mega Hits **6.30** News '93 **7.00** Mark Goodier's Evening Session: including Hole and Novamob **9.00** Simple Minds: The Street Fighting Years, with Anne Nightingale and Jim Kerr (r) **10.00** Nicky Campbell Goes into the Night **12.00-4.00am** Bob Harris (FM only)

RADIO 2
FM Stereo. **5.00am** Sarah Kennedy The Early Show **6.15** Pause for Thought **7.00** Wake Up to *Wogan* **9.15** *Pause for Thought* **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Gloria Hunniford **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** We Stayed in with ... Jungr and Parker **7.30** Hayes Over Britain **9.00** Vitality! See Choice **10.00** In Good Voice: Standards with a Twist. A series of a capella music presented by Maddy Prior **10.30** Derek Jameson **12.05am** Jazz Parade with Digby Fairweather **12.35** Steve Madden with Night Ride **3.00-5.00am** Alex Lester

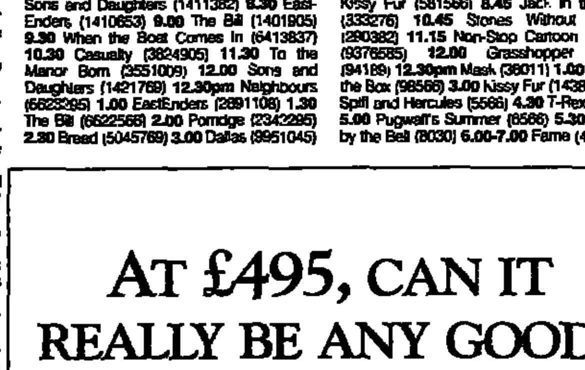
RADIO 5
News and sport on the hour until **7.00pm. 6.00am** World Service **6.30** Danny Baker's Morning Edition **9.30** Johnnie Walker with The AM Alternative **11.30** BFBS Worldwide **12.30pm** Learn to Earn **1.05** All Change: Welfare benefits **2.30** A Game of Two Halves **4.30** Five Aside **7.15** There's a Viking in My Bed, by Jeremy Strong (2/2) **7.30** Football Plus: Rangers v Aberdeen; under-21 — Turkey v England, Belgium v Wales **10.10** Earshot, incl **11.00** Sport **12.00-12.10am** News; Sport

WORLD SERVICE
All times in BST. **4.30am** BBC English **4.45** News and Press Review in German **5.00** Morgenmagazin **5.30** Londres Matin **6.00** News **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** The World Today **7.30** Music for the Millions **8.00** Newsdesk **8.30** New Ideas **8.50** From India to English **9.00** News **9.10** Words of Faith **9.15** Concert Hall **10.00** News **10.05** Business Report **10.15** India's Children of Courage **10.30** Sparks from a Precious Stone **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** Discovery **11.30** BBC English **11.45** Mittagsmagazin **Noon** Newsdesk **12.30pm** Megamix **1.00** News **1.10** Words of Faith **1.15** Multitrack 1 **1.45** Sports Roundup **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.05** Outlook **3.30** Off the Shelf: Raag Darbari **3.45** Mastersingers **4.00** News **4.15** BBC English **4.29** News in French *4.30 Programmes in German 5.00 News 5.15 BBC English 5.30 Programmes in French* **6.00** News **6.05** Business Report **6.15** The World Today **6.30** Heute Aktuell **7.05** German Features **8.00** News **8.05** Outlook **8.30** Europe Today **9.00** News **9.10** The World Today **9.25** Words of Faith **9.30** Meridian **10.00** Newshour **11.00** News **11.15** Megamix **11.45** Sports Roundup **Midnight** News **12.05am** Business Report **12.15** Concert Hall **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** Omnibus **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** A Bad Press? **2.45** Country Style **3.00** Newsdesk **3.30** Development '93 **4.00** News **4.15** *Sports Roundup*

CLASSIC FM
6.00am Nick Bailey **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto: Brahms (Violin Concerto Igor Oistrakh, LSO under Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos); Berber (Agnus Dei) **3.00** Petroc Trelawny **6.00** Classic Reports with Margaret Howard **7.00** Classic Opera Guide with Hugh MacPherson **8.00** Classic FM Concert: Milhaud (La Création du Monde. Ulster Orchestra under Jan Pascal Tortelier); Gershwin (Rhapsody in Blue. Columbia SO under Leonard Bernstein). Shostakovich (Jazz Suite No 2: Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra under Riccardo Chailly) **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00-6.00am** André Leon

FREQUENCIES: RADIO 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; FM-97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2:** FM-88-90.2. **RADIO 3:** FM-90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4:** 198kHz/1515m; FM-92.4-94.6. **RADIO 5:** 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. **LBC:** 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. **CAPITAL:** 1548kHz/194m; FM-95.8. **GLR:** 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; **WORLD SERVICE:** MW 648kHz/463m. **CLASSIC FM:** FM-100-102.
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English exuberance disguises serious intent in World Cup tie

Turkey fear Gascoigne tricks

FROM ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
IN IZMIR, TURKEY

IZMIR, the ancient Aegean port once frequented by the poet Homer, has now seen Gazza.

Concluding yesterday's training session, Gascoigne, the incorrigible man-child of English football, ran to the centre circle, executed a beautiful belly-flop into a puddle left by a three-hour overnight storm and dragged Ian Wright into mudlarking for the benefit of watching schoolboys and press photographers.

England's manager, usually the first to ask the players to put a smile on their faces, insisted: "You have seen this exuberance, don't for one moment think that behind it we are not deadly serious or that we are not out here determined to actually produce the goods. We watched the video of our 4-0 win over Turkey at Wembley and we are going out to do that again on Wednesday."

His rival, Sepp Piontek, the German who is troubled by his own loss of popularity among the Turks, acknowledged that no amount of mudlarking confuses him regarding Gascoigne. At Wembley, Piontek reminded us, Turkey attempted to pass the playmaker on from player to player in a zonal system. He believes he has a way to curb Gascoigne tomorrow: he smiled and drew on his pipe rather than spell it out, but the option seems to be to mark Gascoigne man-for-man.

If he does so, it will leave more space not only for David Platt but for Paul Ince to express himself. Ince, voted second in Sunday's players' poll of the year, was in significantly relaxed mood yesterday. It counts for something when countries such as Germany and Italy are concerned about racism in their football that the top two professional performers in England are coloured. The two of them are also reformed characters, and Ince was yesterday happy to talk about the personal disciplines that have come into his game.

He gives Graham Taylor some acknowledgment for this, he names Bryan Robson for teaching him the lesson of consistency, but, above all, he says that the commitment and responsibility that was born with his young son Thomas has been the biggest factor in balancing his approach.

Another player grateful for opportunity is Andy Sinton, the Queens Park Rangers winger pressed into service as a conventional left back. Without the rampaging Stuart Pearce and the cultured Tony Dorigo, Taylor emphasised that he preferred to stay loyal to the squad system rather than introduce a new, proven full back. "I can't keep pulling in people from nowhere," he said.

Sinton, so distraught that he cried when he was left out of the European championship squad, said: "The manager isn't sure which way Turkey will play, whether they will leave just one up front or maybe two with a wide player. But he says he has every confidence in me if I have to play a completely orthodox defensive role, I have confidence in myself and the position will be that if I can do that and get forward as often as possible, I'll be firing in crosses for my clubmate, Les Ferdinand."

Ferdinand was one of two players who failed to complete yesterday's practice. David Batty, who in any case would be no more than a stand-by player, came off after only minutes feeling the knee he injured before leaving England and Ferdinand was excluded from the session with a sore hip. Providing there are no reactions overnight, Ferdinand is still expected to lead the attack with Wright, although during practice Platt, who scored four goals in the last match against San Marino, played permanently in partnership with Wright. Training sessions, though, can be deceptive.

When the real thing begins tomorrow night, Gascoigne's exuberance excepted, we can expect that England's mood will be very pragmatic and full of the predictability that Piontek expects from England.

David Miller, page 36

Barnet's players fail to get their money

STAN Flashman, chairman of Barnet, the third division club, was yesterday reported to have threatened to fine the club's players a fortnight's wages after they had gone to his home to protest about not being paid for two weeks.

The manager, Barry Fry, told the players during training that there was apparently no money available. This led to members of the team deciding to try and see Flashman at his house in nearby Totteridge.

"We didn't see the chairman," said a spokesman "but his wife Helen told us that if the Football League released the £150,000 bond they still hold outstanding monies would be paid.

"We then went to the ground for a meeting which was interrupted by a phone call from the chairman who said he was fining us all two weeks' wages for complaining about not being paid. He also said he'd get Tuesday's game at Scarborough called off. But we are determined to fulfil our fixtures and gain promotion.

"We then had another call from him promising that the outstanding monies owed will be at the ground at 1pm on Wednesday."

Fry said: "The players naturally feel disappointed and let down, not only by the club, but by the Professional Footballers' Association who don't seem to be moving much towards resolving the problems here."

It is believed Barnet have still not paid a £50,000 Football League fine levied in November for financial irregularities. "We are aware of reported developments at Barnet," said Ian Cotton, a League spokesman. "We are not aware of any threat to the Scarborough-Barnet game, but a club calling off a fixture must be aware there could be serious consequences."

☐ Rangers have decided to appeal against an £8,000 fine imposed by Uefa following alleged misconduct by the Glasgow club's supporters in Brugesduring the European Cup game on March 3.

☐ Newcastle have promised to ban for life the supporter who assaulted Birmingham's new owner, David Sullivan, during Sunday's drawn game while Sullivan was on his feet in the directors' box.

Jones made to pay for late arrival

VINNIE Jones, the Wimbledon midfield player, was yesterday banned indefinitely by the Football Association after he failed to attend a disciplinary hearing. Jones arrived 90 minutes late at the FA's headquarters at Lancaster Gate and will now have to return, probably next week, to appear before another disciplinary panel.

The hearing had been called to punish Jones for reaching 41 disciplinary points for the season so far. With the player still absent half an hour after the 12.30pm meeting was supposed to start, the Wimbledon chief executive, David Barnard, and secretary, Steve Rooke, were summoned to be told Jones was suspended from Saturday's match with Oldham Athletic and also banned indefinitely, until he does attend a meeting.

Barnard said: "The rules state players have to be in attendance to hear the charge



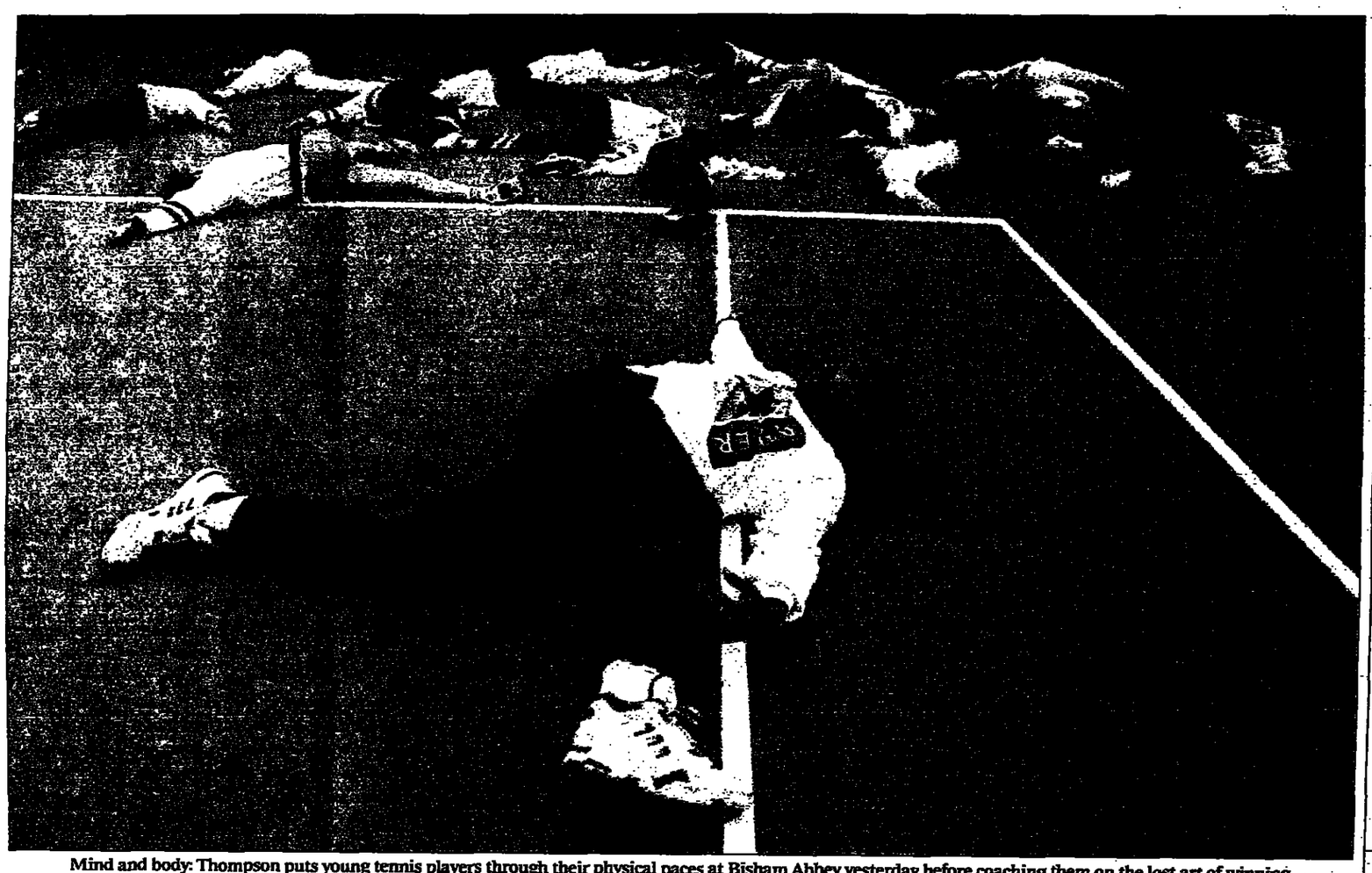
Jones: indefinite ban

and, due to Vinnie's absence, the commission decided he should be banned from Saturday's game and until such time as the hearing takes place.

"I think the FA were in a dilemma. This is the first time they have been confronted with this problem. It is not like Vinnie. He certainly knows his way to the FA."

Jones finally appeared at FA headquarters more than 90 minutes late. He left without comment after a short conversation with the disciplinary chief, Eric Dinnie, who explained: "It was a genuine misunderstanding. Vinnie thought the time of the hearing was not 12.30, but 2.30 and he arrived in plenty of time for that."

Champion Daley serves up winning formula



Mind and body: Thompson puts young tennis players through their physical paces at Bisham Abbey yesterday before coaching them on the lost art of winning



Andrew Longmore sees the LTA borrow a double gold medal winner to coach young players

THE name was familiar, but not the surroundings or the sport. In the serene country house atmosphere of Bisham Abbey, Daley Thompson, decathlon world and double Olympic champion, world record-breaker and competitor supreme, instilled a few home truths into a new generation of British tennis players desperate to cast off the tag of all-time losers.

No matter that Thompson is to tennis what Boris Becker is to pole vault, yesterday Thompson gave the first of four clinics designed to help Britain's best juniors rediscover the lost art of winning. "All sports are the same. It doesn't matter whether it's tennis or volleyball. We all just want to win the goddam thing," he said.

The equation is so logical, it is a wonder nobody has seen it before. If you have no role models of your own, borrow someone else's. Yet it has taken a quantum leap in thinking, and a little courage, for the Lawn Tennis Association to allow a character of Thompson's force near the most precious products of their system. Whether the experiment is successful or not, they should be applauded for their initiative.

"Nothing may come of it," Thompson said before his first session yesterday. "But I am surprised and very pleased they asked me to help. You never know what it might lead to."

Thompson has approached his task with the same smiling bravado which characterised his competition. His message, the athletics establishment will not be surprised to hear, was strong and honest. Winning, he said, is not based on any magic formula, but on oceans of sweat, a few drops of self-belief and a touch of kidology.

"I made a point of training on Christmas eve, Christmas day and Boxing day every year. Why? Because I knew no one else would be. So, when we all lined up for the start of the Olympic decathlon, I knew there was no one more talented than I was and, above all, that no one had worked harder. I made sure the others all knew that, too. In training, I was always first there and last away.

"It all comes down to confidence, and that is only built on the solid foundation of hard work. What tends to separate people is their mental attitude. Those who get to the top do so because they want it more than the others and if there is one message to pass on, it's an old one. You only get out what you put in. Simple as that."

As a teenager, Thompson cut out a picture of himself at the finish of a junior 100 metres. He was on the edge of the photo, coming fourth, but he kept it on the mantelpiece for five years as a reminder. "None of the first three ever beat me again," he said.

Thompson, an enthusiastic club player, has been an interested observer of British tennis since he first took up the game socially three or four years ago. ("Let's face it, the pole vault isn't very sociable, is it?") From his own experience, he knows that many of the best athletes are being channelled into other sports long before they come into contact with tennis.

"They should cast their net wider, a lot wider. Athletics clubs go into the schools to find the best athletes. Tennis clubs should do the same. In fact, they could take a short cut by going to the athletics clubs and finding the best athletes there".

Because he has done it that way himself, Thompson subscribes to the "backstreet champion" theory of British tennis and one of his unspoken tasks yesterday was to roughen a few edges and implant the aggression which Ian Barclay, the head coach at the Rover School of Excellence, has already called for in his future champions.

"Daley fits the bill for us beautifully," Mark Cox, the former British No. 1 and director of the Rover scheme, explained. "He has set standards and met them both physically and mentally. He is a super guy and a good communicator. He will give our kids an insight into what it takes to be a champion and, let's face it, we lack a big name in tennis."

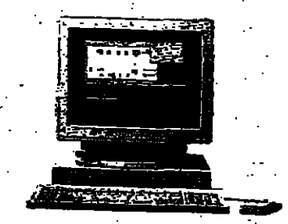
In between helping to bring up his three children, racing a Group N touring car and preparing for a television series, Thompson still trains regularly at the age of 34, out of habit as much as anything.

He has lost none of his confidence. "I would have been an incredible tennis player, you know, if I'd have played younger. Incredible." With luck, a speck of that might rub off on to the best at Bisham.

☐ Neil Broad, of Britain, came through three qualifying matches to earn a first-round tie against Wayne Ferreira, the world No. 10, in the $300,000 South African Open in Durban yesterday. Broad beat Lan Bale and John-Laffnie De Jager, both of South Africa, and Jean-Christophe Nabi, of Ivory Coast, on his way to a tilt at Ferreira.

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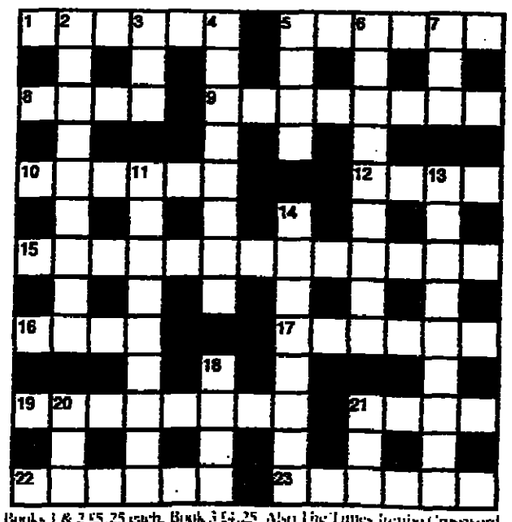
ACROSS
1 Employable (6)
5 Scarper (3,3)
8 Circle (4)
9 Combined effort (8)
10 Rudimentary (6)
12 Military force (4)
15 Prompt consideration (5,8)
16 Pretentious nonsense (4)
17 Hired assassin (6)
19 Deficiency (8)
21 Ill-mannered (4)
22 Optimistic (6)
23 Calm down (6)

DOWN
2 Holy, divine (9)
3 Eavesdropping device (3)
4 Plea (8)
5 Genuine (4)
6 W Suffolk racecourse (9)
7 Distant (3)
11 Beast of burden (9)
13 Treat roughly (9)
14 Kept back (8)
18 Enormous (4)
20 Rose fruit (3)
21 Sugar cane spirit (3)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 3058

ACROSS: 1 Schizophrenia 8 Equip 9 Elastic 10 Cow 11 Nitro 12 Immense 14 Earned 16 Zither 20 Soldier 23 Palio 24 Ado 25 Running 26 Set up 27 Spending spree

DOWN: 1 Stern measures 2 Haunter 3 Zip code 4 Pee-wit 5 Realm 6 Not in 7 Arc de Triomphe 13 Ear 15 Nod 17 Imposts 18 Holster 19 Dragon 21 Lance 22 Iliad



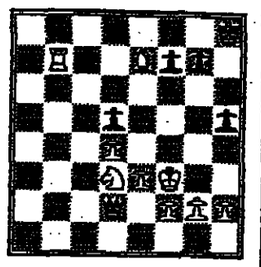
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WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Skomorochin — Ivanov, Katowice 1993. Capturing an opponent's piece (as black can here with 1 ... Qxd3) is always a temptation. Oscar Wilde's advice concerning temptation was to yield to it — should black follow this advice?

Solution on page 36



WORD-WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

STORTHING
a. Thrashing with a flail
b. A Shetland outdoor larder
c. The Norwegian parliament

LAMBEG
a. A man-eating monster
b. A legal parenthesis
c. A drum

CLITIC
a. Emotionally challenged
b. A parasitic word
c. Part of an earthworm

RELIGIEUSE
a. A type of veil
b. Chaplain to a nunnery
c. A mound of éclairs

Answers on page 36